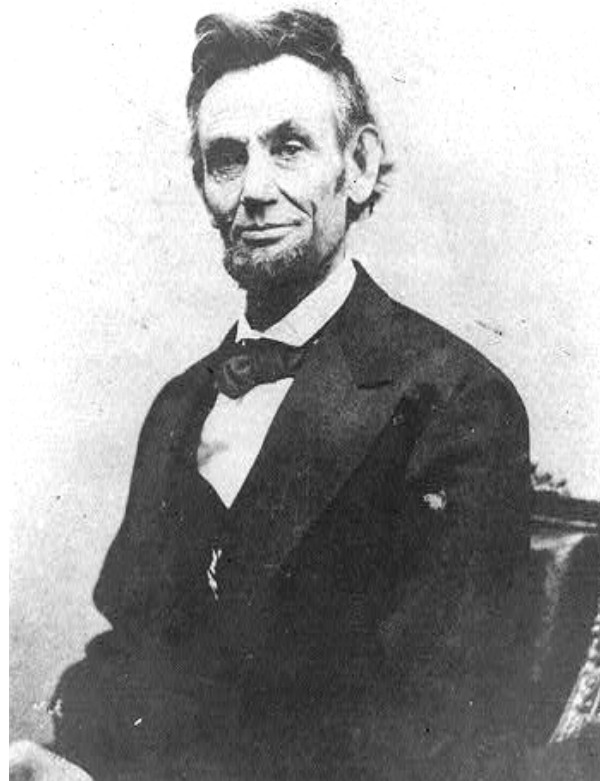


LINCOLN, KENTUCKY & KENTUCKIANS

A CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
OF SITES IN KENTUCKY
ASSOCIATED WITH PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

PREPARED FOR THE
HISTORICAL CONFEDERATION
OF KENTUCKY
&
THE KENTUCKY ABRAHAM LINCOLN
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION



PREPARED BY
MUDPUPPY & WATERDOG, INC.
VERSAILLES, KENTUCKY

FINAL
DECEMBER 20, 2005

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INTRODUCTION

The Cultural Resource Inventory of Sites in Kentucky Associated with President Abraham Lincoln was undertaken for the Historical Confederation of Kentucky and the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. The purpose of the survey was to identify places in the Commonwealth with a connection to Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, or with Lincoln's family.

Abraham Lincoln is perhaps one of the most complex men in American history. He is a hard man to pigeonhole. He lived a rough and tumble life on the frontier of the United States at the dawn of the 19th century, a time that offered unprecedented opportunities for social and economic advancement. Lincoln did his share of manual labor yet he always sought "book knowledge." He eventually made a professional career for himself. He loved politics and his heroes were politicians.

To try to understand Lincoln it is necessary to put him in the context of his times. Lincoln was born in Kentucky. He lived here for seven years. Although his family moved first to Indiana and then to Illinois, Lincoln retained many ties to Kentucky. His best friend was a Kentuckian and he married a Kentuckian. When the Civil War began he knew that he had to keep Kentucky in the Union in order to win the war.

The goal of the survey was to locate sites in Kentucky associated with Abraham Lincoln. Toward that end, Abraham Lincoln was defined in the broad terms. That is, we looked for sites that were associated with the sixteenth president, his family, and those individuals that helped shape Abraham Lincoln the man and Abraham Lincoln the politician. For that reason sites that are related to Mr. Lincoln's grandparents, his immediate family, and his wife have been included. Also included are sites related to individuals who had documented relationships with Abraham Lincoln, such as romantic entanglements, business relationships, friendships, teachers, mentors and heroes.

Sites were located in nineteen Kentucky counties. They include places marked by highway markers, structures, works of art, and graves. Some have a very strong and well documented tie to Abraham Lincoln; some do not. It is our hope that the sites that we have located will help the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission in its mission to bring Abraham Lincoln, the Kentuckian, to the people of his native state.

METHODOLOGY

The survey began with a list of possible sites supplied by Mr. Tom Fugate, Sites Identification Program Manager at the Kentucky Heritage Council. To this list was added sites recorded by Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc. during the US 31W Heritage Corridor Cultural Resource Inventory in 2001, the US 31E Cultural Heritage Corridor Resource Inventory in 2003, and sites known from research conducted in the past for other projects undertaken by Mudpuppy & Waterdog.

To help identify places and people associated with Abraham Lincoln research was conducted using primarily secondary sources. The research relied heavily on Lowell Harrison's *Lincoln of Kentucky*, William Townsend's *Lincoln and the Bluegrass* and David Herbert Donald's *Lincoln*. References in these books to persons or incidents in Abraham Lincoln's life or associated with his family provided a starting point for further research. In each county where there were documented or possible sites, a

search was made for an individual who had a thorough knowledge of the county's history. These individuals, who appear as site contacts in this document, were invaluable in identifying sites, and in telling us when sites were no longer extant.

Each site, with the exception of Cumberland Gap National Park, the Samuel Pate House in Hancock County, the Capt. Abraham Lincoln Homesite in Casey County, and the sculpture "Young Lincoln" in Kenton County, was visited. The time required to travel to Cumberland Gap to document the site was prohibitive. We learned of the last three sites too late allow a site visit.

During the field visit, a description of the site was recorded. Guided or self-guided tours were taken at each site open to the public to get a feeling for their interpretive programs. An evaluation was made of the interpretation, if any. Lastly, each site was photographed and plotted on a map and a written description of the location was recorded.

The preliminary research and additional research conducted on each site was used to create a context that places the site into the framework of Lincoln's life. No attempt was made to fully record the events in Abraham Lincoln's life. Nor was any attempt was made to present even a brief history of the Civil War. Emphasis was placed on his or his family's personal association with people and places in Kentucky and Kentuckians who had an important impact on Lincoln after he left the Commonwealth.

CONCLUSION

Over fifty sites associated with Abraham Lincoln, his immediate family, his parents or his grandparents were recorded. Over half of these sites have some interpretation. A few are well interpreted and provide insight into Abraham Lincoln and his origins. Most are interpreted only minimally or with highway markers. There are few whose interpretation could not be improved.

Two museums, the Hardin County History Museum in Elizabethtown and the Lincoln Museum in Hodgenville, were also recorded because both have exhibits that contribute to our understanding of Abraham Lincoln or his family. Three monumental works of art, two statues by Adolph A Weinman and one by George Grey Barnard, were included as examples of the memorialization of Lincoln that occurred in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These works of art, and structures such as the Memorial Building at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site and the Lincoln Marriage Temple at Old Fort Harrod, attest to the growth of Lincoln as an almost mythical figure in our national consciousness. One recent work of art, a twenty-first century sculpture by Matt Langford that depicts Lincoln as a young man, was also included.

Lincoln embodies what we, as Americans, say we value most – "honesty, unpretentiousness, tolerance, hard work, a capacity to forgive, a compassion for the underdog, a clear-sighted vision of right and wrong, a dedication to God and country, and an abiding concern for all."¹ The desire to know and understand Abraham Lincoln draws the public to sites with a tangible connection to him and his family. It is our hope that the information provided in this document will assist the Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky Bicentennial Commission in its mission to further the understanding of Abraham Lincoln.

¹ Robert W. Blythe, Maureen Carroll and Stephen Moffson, *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site Historic Resource Study*, quoting Lincoln biographer Stephen B. Oates, <http://www.nps.gov/abli/hrs/hrs.1.htm>.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, KENTUCKY & KENTUCKIANS

Abraham Lincoln was a Kentuckian by birth. The Knobs country of Kentucky, his friends and neighbors, his first teachers, and his earliest religious teachings shaped his childhood and the man he became. Although Abraham Lincoln left the Commonwealth while still a boy, native Kentuckians played important, often times pivotal, roles in his upbringing, his education, his romantic life, his professional life, and his political life.

When Thomas and Nancy Lincoln decided to move from Kentucky to Indiana, and then to Illinois, they were duplicating a decision made by hundreds of other Kentuckians. Spencer County, Indiana, where the Lincolns settled, was an enclave of Kentuckians. Almost one-half of its settlers hailed from Kentucky. Kentuckians also dominated in the Sangamon River Valley of Illinois, which included Springfield. It is not surprising that a good many of the individuals Abraham Lincoln met were Kentuckian by birth as he was.

Lincoln's stepmother, Sarah Bush Johnston, was from Elizabethtown. Denton Offutt, a Kentuckian, hired Lincoln to clerk in his store, where he gained the lofty title "Chief & head Clerk," starting Lincoln on a career path that took him away from the farm and flatboat and into a profession. Joshua Speed, from Louisville, met Lincoln in Springfield and became a lifelong friend and trusted confidant, helping Lincoln through his most trying times. All three of Lincoln's law partners, John Todd Stuart, Stephen Logan and William Herndon, were from Kentucky. Mentor Graham, who taught Lincoln in New Salem, was from Greensburg, Kentucky. Samuel Pate introduced him to law in his Hancock County Courtroom. Ann Rutledge, Mary Owens and Mary Ann Todd, the only three women Lincoln ever seems to have expressed a romantic interest in, were from Henderson, Greensburg and Lexington, respectively. Henry Clay, the man he admired more than any other, was from Lexington. The list goes on and on.

Lincoln could not avoid influencing and being influenced by Kentuckians. He understood Kentucky and Kentuckians, a fact that stood him in good stead throughout his life. He was a Kentuckian by birth and the influence of his native state loomed large in his life.

KENTUCKY

THE LINCOLN FAMILY

Abraham Lincoln was born in LaRue County (then Hardin), Kentucky on February 12, 1809 but his ties and his family's ties to the Commonwealth began many years earlier. Genealogists have determined that Abraham Lincoln descended from Samuel Lincoln, a weaver who migrated from Norfolk County, England, to Hingham, Massachusetts, in 1637. Samuel Lincoln did well in the New World, becoming a prosperous businessman. Most of his eleven children and their children moved into other areas, including grandson Mordecai, who settled in Pennsylvania. Mordecai became a wealthy landowner and ironmaster and a member of the social and economic elite of the Quaker colony. It was in Pennsylvania that the Lincolns became associated with the Boone family and at least five intermarriages are known to have taken place.¹

In 1774 Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the president, was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania to Mordecai's son, John, and John's wife, Rebecca. Sometime before 1768 John Lincoln moved his family to

a 210-acre farm in Rockingham County, Virginia, purchased for him by his father. That Mordecai was able to purchase 210 acres of the best soil in Virginia for his son says a great deal about Mordecai's economic status. In the succeeding years, John added to his land holdings and the family prospered.²

John's son, Abraham, served as a militia captain during the American Revolution. He married in 1770 but the name of the bride was not recorded. By 1780 he was married to Bathsheba (sometimes spelled Bersheba) Herring. She may have been the woman he married in 1770 or she may have been Abraham's second wife. The couple had five children, Mordecai, Josiah, Mary, Thomas, and Nancy (Harrison gives the name as Ann, other sources give it as Nancy).³

In 1767 Daniel Boone, following in the footsteps of other white explorers, entered what would become Kentucky for the first time. By 1771 he probably knew this wilderness better than any other white man. In 1775 he was retained by Judge Richard Henderson to cut a road, which became known as Boone's Trace, from Cumberland Gap to the newly established fort, later Boonesborough, on the banks of the Kentucky River. Henderson's vision of Kentucky was not to be realized. On the last day of December 1776 the Commonwealth of Virginia created Kentucky County. By late 1780 there was sufficient settlement to abolish Kentucky County and to create Jefferson, Lincoln and Fayette counties in its stead.⁴

Abraham Lincoln, like most of the men in his family before him, decided to seek a new life on the frontier. He may have been influenced by family friend and distant relative Daniel Boone, who had returned some years earlier with glowing reports of the "Eden of the west." In 1780 he sold his farm in Virginia and traveled to Kentucky where he bought two tracts of land totaling twelve hundred acres. About 1782 Abraham and his entire family moved west. They crossed through the Cumberland Gap and made their way northeast about 100 miles, settling on an 800-acre tract officially described as "lying on Green River about six miles below Green River Lick." The family moved into an existing cabin on the north side of the Green River in the vicinity of present-day Middleburg in Casey County. In 1783 Abraham Lincoln entered a survey for 2,268 ½ acres on the Green River. Records indicate that he and his family remained on Green River for about two years before moving to the Long Run land grant and settling near Hughes station in Jefferson County.⁵



The Lincoln family, like thousands of other Americans, moved west through Cumberland Gap.

In 1785 Abraham and his cousin Hananiah acted as "chain men" in making an official survey of the Long Run grant. Kentucky was still very much a dangerous wilderness when the Lincoln family made it their home. Although the Revolutionary War was over, the British continued to encourage Native Americans in attacks against settlers west of the Appalachians. The Lincolns arrived in Kentucky at the height of hostilities. Most settlers, including the Lincoln family, lived in small stations for protection but often that protection proved insufficient. In May 1786 Thomas, then 8, witnessed the death of his father at the hands of Native Americans as he was "laboring to open a farm in the forest." Abraham and his three sons were about one-half mile from the station, on their way home after clearing fields, when they were fired upon by a small band

of Indians. Abraham was killed instantly. Mordecai, the oldest at fifteen, ordered his younger brother, Josiah, to run to the station for help. Thomas remained at his father's side while Mordecai rushed into the family's new, unfinished cabin. When an Indian approached his father's body. Mordecai shot him. Men from the station arrived shortly and the Indians dispersed. Abraham was wrapped in deerskins and laid to rest in a grave on the slope of a little hill near the cabin. Abraham's widow, Bathsheba, did not remain long at Hughes station after her husband's death. That fall she moved her family to Washington County, Kentucky, near Springfield, where Abraham's cousin and close friend, Hananiah, was then living.⁶

Abraham Lincoln left a considerable estate. There was a good deal of land, as much as 5,800 acres, two horses, three cows with calves, and two yearling cattle, as well as an assortment of tools, household goods, and weapons. Jefferson County was part of Virginia and under Virginia law the ancient rule of primogeniture was still in effect. Mordecai Lincoln, the oldest son, inherited his father's entire estate when he came of age in 1795. Thomas and Josiah Lincoln, the younger sons, inherited nothing. In the years that followed, Mordecai became one of the leading citizens of Washington County. He was a man of considerable property, interested in breeding fine racehorses. On one 200 acre-tract, not far from his mother's home, he built a two-story log home that which still stands today. Mordecai, a man of "considerable wit and great natural gifts," was the only Lincoln relative that the President knew. He once remarked that "Uncle Mord had run off with all of the talents in the family."⁷

THOMAS LINCOLN

Thomas, born in Rockingham County, Virginia in 1776 or 1778, was the fourth of five children. With his father's death, he lost all prospects of being an heir of a well-to-do Kentucky landowner and became a "poor wandering boy" who, by his own initiative, would carve a place for himself and his family out of the wilderness. Thomas Lincoln lived near Springfield until the age of eighteen, earning three shillings a day for manual labor and a little more for carpentry or cabinet making, skills he acquired as an apprentice along the way, some say from his neighbor, Mr. Berry. In 1796 he was in Elizabethtown, where, on June 13, he received \$9.56 from Samuel Haycraft for work on the mill and millrace Haycraft was building on Severn's Creek. The following year Thomas Lincoln appears in the Hardin county tax rolls. He worked as far afield as present-day Meade County, where he helped construct a mill on Doe Run Creek. In 1802 he took up permanent residence in Hardin County, where, through hard work, he saved enough to buy a 238-acre farm on Mill Creek, paying \$574.07 in cash.⁸

His mother, Bathsheba Lincoln, had already returned to Hardin County to live with her youngest child, Nancy, who had married William Brumfield. They had settled in the Mill Creek area of Hardin County where Thomas had purchased property. Abraham Lincoln's grandmother spent the remainder of her life on the Brumfield farm. Upon her death, said to be in 1833 in her 110th year, she was buried in the Mill Creek Cemetery.⁹



*Thomas Lincoln
c.1777-1851.*

Numerous records of Thomas Lincoln's early years in Hardin County survive. Court records show that he was employed as a guard of prisoners and that he served on juries on a number of occasions. His name appears as petitioner for roads and as a witness on notes. In 1805 he became a Hardin County policeman, serving on the patrol of Christopher Bush. In 1806 he acquired a house lot and cabin near the courthouse in

Elizabethtown. Ledgers and day books of a general store operated by William Montgomery and Robert Bleakly on the Public Square show purchases made in 1804 for a cast-iron saw, plane bit, file, auger and adze – carpenter's tools. On New Year's Day, 1805, he purchased a fine and rather expensive hat.

In early 1805 Thomas Lincoln's account was credited with 21 pounds, 14 shillings and 1 ½ pence for 2,400 pounds of pork and 494 pounds of beef, which appears to have been part of a cargo being assembled by Bleakly and Montgomery for shipment to New Orleans. About the same time, Isaac Bush received credit for work on a boat being constructed at West Point. Not long afterward, Isaac Bush and Thomas Lincoln left West Point for New Orleans. They returned almost three months later. An entry made on May 16 reads: *Thomas Lincoln credit-By going to New Orleans 16 pounds, 10 shillings. By Gold 13 pounds, 14 shillings, 7 ½ pence.* During the following week Thomas Lincoln purchased cloth, sewing items, buttons and thread totaling over twenty-two pounds. A charge also appears for over thirty-three pounds thought to have been for tailoring. Not long afterward, Thomas Lincoln journeyed to Washington County where he married Nancy Hanks on June 12, 1806.¹⁰

NANCY HANKS

Very little is known of the Hanks family except that a number of members of the family moved from Virginia to Kentucky in the 1780s, entering Kentucky by way of the Cumberland Gap. The Hanks clan was, for the most part, illiterate but respectable farmers of modest means. The family tree is hard to trace because for generations the Hanks' tended to name all males James or John and all females Polly, Lucy, or Nancy. Determining the antecedents of the Nancy Hanks who gave birth to Abraham Lincoln has been decidedly difficult and is still open to question. There are a number of theories concerning her parentage and early life and they are all the more difficult to unravel because Abraham Lincoln's mother was one of at least eight Nancy Hanks born in the 1780s.¹¹

According to his law partner and biographer, William Herndon, Abraham Lincoln believed his mother was illegitimate, the "daughter of Lucy Hanks and a well-bred Virginia farmer or planter." Some believe that Nancy Hanks was the legitimate daughter of Abraham and Sarah Hanks, both of whom died in Virginia when she was a child. Others have concluded that Nancy Hanks was the daughter of James and Lucy Shipley Hanks and that Lucy [Lucey in many old records] brought Nancy to Kentucky after her father's death. Nancy and Lucy found a home in Washington County with Lucy's sister, Rachel, who was married to Richard Berry.¹²

The Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial website states that Nancy Hanks was born on February 5, 1784 in Campbell County, Virginia. She was orphaned by the time she was nine years old and went to live with the Richard Berry family. Berry, evidently an uncle, and his family accepted Nancy as one of their own. According to Lowell Harrison and others, Nancy Hanks was probably born on February 5, 1784 in the Patterson Creek area of Virginia. Lucy and Nancy Hanks came to Kentucky with other members of the Hanks family that spring, settling near the Rolling Fork of the Salt River in Kentucky. Records indicate that Lucy Hanks married Henry Sparrow at Harrodsburg in 1790. Harrison, like Lincoln biographer Carl Sandburg, states that in 1796 Nancy went to live with Elizabeth Hanks Sparrow, Lucy's sister, and her husband, Thomas Sparrow, Henry Sparrow's brother.¹³

In the web of conflicting theories concerning Nancy Hanks' origins there are several consistencies. Most agree that she was born in Virginia in 1784 and came to Kentucky in the late 1780s. She resided in Washington County for at least part of her early life and was acquainted, if not related to, the Richard Berry

family. At least one source states that Nancy was a talented seamstress and that the Berrys employed her in that capacity. Most historians believe that she resided with the Berry family for some period of time.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

In the early 1800s, the laws governing marriage in Virginia, which included Kentucky, were very strict and severe penalties attended their infraction. The clerk was not allowed to charge more than one dollar for a marriage license. Before a license could be obtained, however, the “Clerk of that County wherein the feme usually resides had to in the manner following; that is to say, the clerk shall take bond with good surety for the sum of fifty pounds current money.” The bond guaranteed that there was no lawful reason why the marriage could not take place. If the marriage did not take place or fraud in obtaining the license was discovered the guilty parties were to be imprisoned for a year without bail and fined £500.¹⁴

On June 10, 1806 a marriage bond was recorded at the Washington County Courthouse in Springfield for Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. Thomas Lincoln and Richard Berry signed the bond. Berry appended “gardin” [guardian] beneath his signature, indicating that he was the guardian of, and responsible for, the Nancy Hanks named in the bond.

The couple was married two days after the bond was obtained in a ceremony conducted by the Rev. Jesse Head, a Methodist minister. The wedding took place at the Richard Berry home at Beechland, six miles north of Springfield, on June 12, 1806. Dr. Christopher Columbus Graham, a guest at the wedding, later recalled the “infare,” the Kentucky-style wedding celebration.

We had bear-meat (that you can eat the grease of, and it will not rise like other fats); venison; wild turkey and ducks, eggs wild and tame (so common that you could buy them at two cents a bushel); maple sugar, swung on a string, to bite off for coffee or whiskey; syrup in big gourds; peach-and-honey; a sheep that the two families barbecued whole over coals of wood burned in a pit, and covered with green boughs to keep the juices in; and a race for the whiskey bottle. The sheep cost the most, and corn was raised in what is now Boyle County, at the Isaac Shelby place.¹⁵

Four days later, on June 16, Tom and Nancy Lincoln were in Elizabethtown, as evidenced by an entry in the ledger of Bleakley & Montgomery for some knives and forks and skeins of silk that were charged to Lincoln’s account. The couple took up residence in the cabin Thomas Lincoln had built on his town lot near the courthouse. Lincoln worked as a carpenter, making windows and doorframes, cabinets and other furniture, and coffins. He had a reputation as an honest and reliable man, a reputation enhanced when he prevailed in two lawsuits involving Denton Geogegan. He was considered a skilled woodworker and found employment readily in the community, including crafting the woodwork and finishing work on a two-story log house built for Hardin Thomas north of Elizabethtown.¹⁶

Thomas and Nancy Lincoln’s first child, Sarah, was born February 10, 1807. That spring, the family moved to the farm of George Brownfield where Thomas helped with the farming and did carpentry. Eighteen months later, in December 1808, Thomas Lincoln purchased a farm three miles south of Hodgen’s Mill for \$200 cash and the assumption of a small debt owed to an earlier owner. On the rise above the spring that flowed from a deep cave, Thomas built a small cabin that was typical for that time and place, sixteen by eighteen feet with a dirt floor and no glass windows. The farm was known as Sinking Spring.¹⁷

On February 12, 1809 Tom and Nancy Lincoln’s second child was born, a son they named Abraham for

his paternal grandfather. Soon after the birth, according to one account, Thomas Lincoln walked the two miles to the Sparrow farm where he relayed news of the birth to Tom and Elizabeth (Betsy) Sparrow. Dennis Hanks, the couple's nine year-old adopted son, hurried to see the new child. Elizabeth followed, to give Nancy what help she could.¹⁸



A fanciful image of the Knob Creek farm.

The soil at the Sinking Spring farm was generally poor and rocky with only a few arable acres. After three years of trying, Thomas Lincoln acknowledged that making a living on the farm would be difficult at best and he began looking for better land. He found it about ten miles north of the Sinking Spring farm on Knob Creek, eight miles north of Hodgenville. Thomas Lincoln leased almost thirty acres along the creek, land that was much better than that at Sinking Spring. The Lincoln family moved to the new farm in 1811 when Abraham was a little more than two years old.¹⁹

The years Abraham Lincoln spent at the Knob Creek farm were typical of boys on the frontier. His early years were spent in play. When old enough, he was expected to help with what chores he was capable of, such as fetching wood and carrying water. He later recalled planting pumpkins in the “big field” of seven acres near the creek. He learned that farming could be a precarious way to make a living when a heavy rain in the knobs sent rivers of water down the hills to wash away not only the corn but the valuable topsoil as well. With few neighbors, his sister Sarah was his closest companion and playmate. On the neighboring farm was a boy nearly four years older than Abraham, Austin Gollaher, who sometimes joined Abe in play. It was Austin who is credited with saving Abraham's life after he fell into a deep, fast running Knob Creek swollen from recent rains.²⁰

One of the most important events of the Knob Creek years was Abraham's introduction to education. He and Sarah attended school for brief periods in 1815 and 1816, when Abe was six and seven years old. The little log schoolhouse was located about two miles north of the Lincoln home, near the banks of Knob Creek on the main road connecting the settlements of Louisville and Nashville. The school was a subscription school, the parents of each student paying a small sum to the teacher. It is worth noting that Thomas Lincoln was affluent enough to be able to afford to send his children to school, and that he and Nancy considered education important enough to send both their daughter and son.²¹

Like most schools of the time, it was a “blab school.” The students learned their lessons by reciting them out loud and in unison. Lincoln probably learned the alphabet and may have been able to read a little when he left Kentucky. His first teacher was Zachariah Riney, whose family had settled in the Bardstown area sometime before 1795. The second was Caleb Hazel, a surveyor and distiller who lived on the farm adjacent to the Lincoln's and who was related to the Hanks family through marriage. Hazel may have taught young Abraham penmanship and contributed to his interest in reading. While it is uncertain just how much Lincoln learned from Zachariah Riney and Caleb Hazel, it is certain that in one of the 1860 biographical sketches that Lincoln proofed before its publication, he did not quarrel with the statement that he “acquired

the alphabet and other rudiments of education” during his childhood in Kentucky.²²

Lincoln’s parents also instilled something of their views on slavery into young Abraham. South Fork Baptist Church, believed to be the first church established in what is now LaRue County, was founded in 1782 about two miles from the Sinking Spring Farm. The congregation’s founder and his successor, Rev. William Downs, were strongly anti-slavery, but much of the congregation was not. Many of the members who opposed slavery, including Thomas and Nancy Lincoln, left the congregation in 1808. After Downs was found “to be in disorder” and the congregation voted “no to invite him to preach” for his anti-slavery views he helped organize the Little Mount Baptist Church about three miles north of Hodgenville. Both Thomas and Nancy Lincoln were active members of the congregation. The Rev. Davis Elkin also served as pastor for the congregation. Like Downs, he was a strong advocate of emancipation. Both of these men visited the Lincoln home at Knob Creek. In 1864 Lincoln claimed to be “naturally anti-slavery,” adding, “I can not remember when I did not so think and feel so.” Given the views of his parents and his early religious instruction, this statement is no doubt true.²³

INDIANA

Establishing clear title to any parcel of land in Kentucky was exceedingly difficult in those early years. Virginia had not surveyed its public lands in Kentucky before settlement and had made no provision for the supervision of private surveys. Claims could be filed prior to any actual field survey and settlers chose tracts to suit themselves, not heeding previous claims made on paper by investors in the east. Surveys were made to suit the individual and were configured to avoid as many poor acres as possible. Overlapping claims were common. Well before statehood, Kentucky’s land system was in a serious tangle. As one observer astutely remarked, “Who buys land in Kentucky, buys a lawsuit.”²⁴

Unfortunately, Thomas Lincoln’s landlord was no exception. The Knob Creek farm fell within the boundaries of a ten-thousand-acre tract claimed by a group of Philadelphia investors who filed a bill of ejection against Lincoln and nine of his neighbors on January 1, 1815. Thomas Lincoln became the defendant in a test case that would drag on for over three years, well after he had left Kentucky. Thomas Lincoln had problems with the titles of all three of the farms he owned or lived on in Kentucky and many believe that the difficulty of securing clear title to land was instrumental in his decision to leave the Commonwealth. It has also been suggested that opposition to slavery, which had been firmly fixed in the legal framework of the Commonwealth in Article 9 of the state constitution in 1792, was at least part of the reason for leaving Kentucky. Both views are correct. Abraham Lincoln himself said that his parents left Kentucky, “partly on account of slavery; but chiefly on account of the difficulties in land titles in Kentucky.”²⁵

Thomas Lincoln traveled to Indiana in the fall of 1816. He selected a 160-acre claim-a quarter section-in Spencer County and blazed trees and piled up brush to mark the boundaries of the land he intended to buy from the federal government. There would be no difficulty with the boundaries or the title; the surveys mandated by the Northwest Ordinance of 1785 clearly defined each 640-acre parcel in each of the thirty-six sections in each township. Thomas returned to Kentucky for his family. They left Knob Creek in the late fall, the four Lincolns mounted two horses, put their belongings, including two feather beds, on a cart and began their two-week, 100-mile journey to their new home. Tradition states that they traveled north through Elizabethtown and Vine Grove and then east through Custer, Harned, Garfield and Hardinsburg, reaching the Ohio River at Thompson’s Ferry, where they were ferried across. They reached the land Thomas

Lincoln had claimed in December. Lincoln would never again reside for any length of time in Kentucky but his ties to the state would remain strong.²⁶

Thomas Lincoln soon built a cabin much like the one that the family had left behind in Kentucky. The crops did well the first year and Thomas Lincoln entered his claim to the southwest quarter of section 32 in township 4, south of Range 5 West in Spencer County, Indiana. One can't help believing that Thomas Lincoln took great satisfaction in the exactness of the surveyed boundaries of his property. A number of other Kentuckians soon joined the Lincolns in Indiana. In fact, fully half of the settlers in Spencer County came from Kentucky, many from just south of the river. Among the new arrivals were Elizabeth (Hanks) and Thomas Sparrow and their ward, Dennis Hanks. Several families they had known in Kentucky, including several relatives, settled nearby in what became known as the Little Pigeon community. The friends and relatives who settled nearby formed a close knit-community. They supported one another in cooperative farming and trading and provided friendship and made the wilderness a more familiar place. They strengthened Abraham Lincoln's ties to the state he had left.²⁷

The Lincoln family arrived without any domestic animals and that first winter they lived mostly on game. Corn was planted in the spring, along with other crops, but only enough for the family to consume. Poor transportation made commercial agriculture impossible, and certainly a gamble. Like their neighbors, they produced most of what they needed. They traded in Gentryville, the nearest town, for what they could not grow or make. Augustus Chapman, a relative and neighbor, wrote, "Lincolns Little Farm was well stocked with Hogs, Horses & cattle" as well as "a fine crop of Wheat corn & Vegetables." Thomas Lincoln earned additional income with carpentry, building cabinets and joining neighbors' houses. The Lincolns prospered in a modest fashion.²⁸

The fall of 1818 brought great sadness to the new settlement and to the Lincoln family. A number of members of the community fell ill with milk sickness, caused by drinking milk from a cow that has eaten snake-root plant. Elizabeth and Thomas Sparrow were among the early victims who were close to the Lincolns. Thomas Lincoln made the coffins in which they were buried. Shortly afterward, Nancy Lincoln was stricken. She died on October 5, 1818 after telling Sarah and Abe to be good to their father, to each other, and to everyone. Thomas made another coffin and buried Nancy on a knoll one-half mile from the cabin.²⁹

The Sparrow's death left Dennis Hanks, about 18 at the time, alone. He moved in with the Lincolns and proved to be a great help with the farming and hunting. Sarah, 12, tried to assume her mother's domestic duties but keeping house, cooking, cleaning and doing laundry for four people was too much for the girl. At times she would sit by the fire and cry, and nothing Abraham or Dennis did could cheer her up. Frontier life was difficult for families but even more difficult for the widow or widower. Thomas needed a wife and the children needed a mother. He returned to Kentucky, to Elizabethtown, where he still had friends and acquaintances. There, he learned that Sarah Bush Johnston, the daughter of his old friend Christopher Bush, was now a widow with three young children. Sarah needed a husband and father for her children and she accepted Tom Lincoln's proposal, even though he was ten years her senior. She would not leave Elizabethtown until several debts that she owed were paid so Tom Lincoln paid them. The couple was married on December 2, 1819 by Methodist minister George L. Rogers in the home of Benjamin Chapeze near the Courthouse Square in Elizabethtown.³⁰

The couple returned to Indiana and Sarah, called Sally, had an almost immediate positive effect on the household. The family now numbered eight with the addition of Sally and her three lively and cheerful

children, Elizabeth, Matilda, and John D., who was a year younger than Abe and soon became his best friend. Sally brought many of her furnishings and household goods to Indiana, bringing a touch of luxury to the Lincoln home. She was an intelligent woman who encouraged Abe to read and learn. In 1861 Lincoln said that “she had been his best friend in the world and that no son could love a mother more than he loved her.” In the belongings Sally brought to Indiana were three books, *Webster’s Speller*, *Robinson Crusoe* and *The Arabian Nights*. Exposure to reading material rekindled Abraham’s desire for knowledge. His stepmother understood that education was important to her stepson and Thomas wanted his son to learn to read and “cipher.” Abraham attended school when teachers were available and his duties at home permitted him the time. All told, however, his formal schooling amounted to only about twelve months when he attended his last class at the age of fifteen.³¹



Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln.

As Abraham got older, the composition of the family changed. In 1821 his stepsister, Elizabeth Johnston, married Dennis Hanks. In August 1826 his sister, Sarah, married Aaron Grigsby and six weeks later his stepsister, Matilda, married Squire Hall. All settled nearby. Eighteen months after her marriage Sarah died in childbirth. Abraham Lincoln was desolate and angry, blaming the Grigsby family for not calling a doctor in time. His quarrel with the Grigsby family, in which he would not relent, alienated him from a number of his neighbors. Abraham Lincoln was all too ready to strike out on his own and increasingly he sought work away from the farm. He worked for six dollars a month and board on James Taylor’s ferry at Bates’ Landing. In 1827 he and his stepbrother, John D. Johnston, even worked as day laborers on the Portland Canal. His most notable, and profitable, job was the voyage he made with Allen Gentry to New Orleans to sell a flatboat of full of goods for Allen’s father.³²

In 1827 Lincoln had his first known experience in a court of law, as a defendant. Lincoln, then eighteen, earned one dollar for ferrying two men and their bags to the middle of the Ohio River so that they could board a steamboat – more money for a day’s work than he had ever seen. Whether it was this incident that sparked the lawsuit or another similar instance is unknown, but that same year, John and Lin Dill, who ran a licensed ferry below Thompson’s Landing in Kentucky, brought suit against Lincoln. They charged him with “ferrying passengers across a stream without a license.” The case was brought before Samuel Pate, the magistrate for that section. The trial was held in Pate’s home on the Kentucky side of the Ohio, about two miles downstream from Thompson’s Landing. In pleading his own case, Lincoln asserted that he did not know that Kentucky law had jurisdiction to the waterline on the Indiana side. He then explained that he had only been taking passengers to the middle of the river where they could catch passing steamboats. Pate reviewed the Kentucky statutes and concluded that, while the law was very clear on the illegality of taking a person over a river or creek, it said nothing about taking them to midstream. Pate dismissed the case. After court, Pate spent some time talking to Lincoln. He told him that anyone working on the river should have some knowledge of the laws governing boat traffic and ferries. He invited Lincoln to attend “court days” at his house and encouraged him to borrow his law books. Lincoln is said to have accepted Pate’s offer, observing court and talking law with Pate on a number of occasions. It may well have been Samuel Pate who sparked Lincoln’s interest in the law as a career.³³

ILLINOIS

John Hanks, Nancy Hanks' first cousin, joined the Lincolns in Indiana in 1822. In 1828 he moved to Illinois, on the Sangamon River, thirty miles east of Springfield. He sent back glowing reports and in the spring of 1830 the Lincoln-Hanks-Johnston clan, as they thought of themselves, headed west together, their belongings in wagons made by Thomas Lincoln. Even though he was twenty-one, Abraham decided to accompany them. Lincoln worked for his neighbors in exchange for goods and took work as a hired laborer. That summer in Decatur, Lincoln made his first political speech, speaking convincingly about the need to improve the Sangamon River to promote economic growth in the area. The following spring Abraham Lincoln, John Johnston and John Hanks took a load of produce to New Orleans for Denton Offutt, a speculative businessman from Kentucky. While Abraham was away, Thomas and Sarah Lincoln decided to return to Indiana, where they settled in Coles County. Upon the flatboat crew's return, Johnston and Hanks decided to move to Coles County as well. Abraham traveled east with them. After visiting his parents for a few weeks he set out for New Salem to take up the clerkship Offutt had offered him in his new store. For the first time, Abraham Lincoln was on his own.³⁴

NEW SALEM

As Offutt's clerk Lincoln gained a reputation for honesty. That, and his intelligence, wit, and athletic ability, earned him a wide circle of friends among the male population of New Salem. He also met a number of men who helped further his education, including Mentor Graham who hailed from Green County, Kentucky. Like Lincoln, Graham had attended a frontier school as a boy. Later he enrolled in Brush Creek Academy, which had been established by his uncle, Nathaniel Owens. In 1818 Graham was hired as headmaster of the newly established Greensburg Academy. Among his students was his first cousin, Mary Owens, vivacious daughter of Nathaniel Owens. After Graham lost his life savings in the failure of the Greensburg Bank he decided to leave Kentucky. In 1826 Graham and his family settled in the Sangamon River country, where Graham resumed his teaching career. Three years later, Graham moved to New Salem and began to teach students in that community, including Abraham Lincoln.³⁵

In 1832 Lincoln's growing circle of friends encouraged him to seek election to the state legislature. Lincoln campaigned vigorously, aided by a number of the local politicians, outlining his ideas in the local newspaper. When the steamer *Talisman* came up Sangamon to demonstrate the navigability of the river, Lincoln acted as pilot because, as he said, he knew the river better than anyone else did. When the river dropped and the *Talisman* had to make a hurried retreat downriver it added validity to Lincoln's political assertion that state support of improvements was necessary if the river was to be made navigable. Offutt's store failed during his campaign, taking Lincoln's job with it. Lincoln, in need of money, volunteered for military service in the Black Hawk War. He saw no fighting but was elected captain of the company and gained valuable leadership experience. Lincoln returned from his military service in time for a brief campaign before the election ballots were cast. Lincoln lost the election but in his New Salem district won 277 of the 300 votes cast, an amazing figure for an unknown young man new to the area. Although he lost the election, Lincoln found his avocation – politics. It would become his passion.³⁶

Lincoln invested his compensation for military service in a general store in New Salem, going into partnership with William F. Berry, who had served with Lincoln in the Black Hawk War. The store was rarely busy and Lincoln had plenty of time to read. But the lack of business and other factors led to the failure of the venture, leaving Lincoln heavily in debt. For a while he worked any number of odd jobs. Then, through the influence of friends, he was appointed postmaster. He supplemented his income as a surveyor's assistant,

teaching himself trigonometry and its application to surveying to obtain the position.³⁷

ANN RUTLEDGE

When Lincoln moved to New Salem he was twenty-two. Though he got on well with men and with married women, he was shy and awkward with single women near his age, neither of which kept him from being considered an eligible bachelor. Friends' matchmaking efforts met with little success, however. Lincoln met Ann Rutledge not long after he moved to New Salem. Her father was James Rutledge, who had been instrumental in founding New Salem after bringing his family to Illinois from Kentucky in 1829. Lincoln joined a debating society that Rutledge started and probably borrowed books from Rutledge's library. He also boarded for a time at the Rutledge tavern. Ann was also the only girl to attend the school taught by Mentor Graham, where Lincoln was also a student. These contacts provided ample opportunity for Ann and Abraham to get to know each other.³⁸

Ann was born January 7, 1813 near Henderson Kentucky, the third of ten children born to Mary (Polly) and James Rutledge. She was described as friendly, intelligent and pretty, with fair skin, blue eyes and red or auburn hair. Her cousin, James McGrady Rutledge, said of Ann, "She was a beautiful girl and as bright as she was beautiful." Lincoln was attracted to Ann and she to him but sometime earlier Ann had become engaged to John McNeil. After their engagement, McNeil revealed that his name was really McNamar. He told Ann that he had come west to recover his family's fortune. Now that he was successful he intended to return to New York and bring his family west to live.³⁹

Initially, McNamar corresponded frequently but in time the letters slowed, and then ceased altogether. Ann, her feelings for Lincoln growing deeper, ended the engagement. Ann and Lincoln visited often and there seemed to be an understanding that they would marry when Lincoln had obtained his law degree. Mentor Graham, who knew them both well, later said, "She and Lincoln were engaged – Lincoln told me so – and she intimated to me the same." Then, in the summer of 1835, Ann became ill with what may have been typhoid fever. When her condition worsened she called for Lincoln and he came to her for a final, private visit. Ann died on August 25 at the age of 22. Her death threw Lincoln into a severe depression, so severe that his friends feared he might take his own life. Years later, when asked if he had fallen in love with Ann, Lincoln replied "It is true – true, indeed I did. I loved the woman dearly and sacredly. She was a handsome girl, would have made a good loving wife ... I did honestly and truly love the girl and think often, often of her now."⁴⁰

MARY OWENS

In 1833, Lincoln had made the acquaintance of Mary Owens, who was visiting her sister, Elizabeth, the wife of Bennett Abell. Reportedly, Lincoln was quite impressed with the vivacious Miss Owens. It is easy to see why. By all accounts, Mary was intelligent, well read and a good conversationalist. A handsome woman with black hair and fair skin, Mary had a cheerful, lively disposition. She was born in Green County, Kentucky on September 29, 1808, the daughter of Nathaniel Owens, a well-to-do landowner. After Mary had returned to Kentucky, Lincoln reportedly told Mrs. Abell. "If that girl ever comes back to New Salem I am going to marry her."⁴¹

After Mary left, Lincoln's friendship with Ann Rutledge deepened into love and Mary was, it seems, forgotten. In early 1836, however, Elizabeth Abell approached Lincoln. She asked Lincoln if he would marry Mary if she returned to New Salem. Lincoln is alleged to have said that if they did not get married it would not be his fault.⁴²

Mary returned to New Salem sometime that year and Lincoln began to court her. From that time until the end of their relationship, Lincoln's letters chronicle a relationship that some writers have termed farcical. In December 1836 he closed a letter that dealt mainly with political matters imploring her to write, saying "if possible say something that will please me, for really I have not been pleased since I left you." The following May he wrote again, proposing marriage while at the same time advising her against it.⁴³

Springfield, May 7, 1837

Miss Mary S. Owens,

Friend Mary: I have commenced two letters to send to you before this, both of which displeased me before I got half done, and so I tore them up. The first I thought was not serious enough, and the second was on the other extreme. I shall send this, turn out as it may.

This thing of living in Springfield is rather a dull business, after all; at least it is so to me. I am quite as lonesome here as I ever was anywhere in my life. I have been spoken to by but one woman since I have been here, and should not have been by her if she could have avoided it. I've never been to church yet, and probably shall not be soon. I stay away because I am conscious I should not know how to behave myself.

I am often thinking of what we said about your coming to live at Springfield. I am afraid you would not be satisfied. There is a great deal of flourishing about in carriages here, which it would be your doom to see without sharing it. You would have to be poor, without the means of hiding your poverty. Do you believe you could bear that patiently? Whatever woman may cast her lot with mine, should any ever do so, it is my intention to do all in my power to make her happy and contented; and there is nothing that I can imagine that would make me more unhappy than to fail in the effort. I know I should be much happier with you than the way I am, provided I saw no signs of discontent with you. What you have said to me may have been in the way of jest, or I may have misunderstood it. If so, then let it be forgotten; if otherwise, I much wish you would think seriously before you decide. What I have said I will most positively abide by, provided you wish it. My opinion is that you had better not do it. You have not been accustomed to hardship, and it may be more secure than you now imagine. I know you are capable of thinking correctly on any subject, and if you deliberate maturely upon this before you decide, then I am willing to abide by your decision.

You must write me a good long letter after you get this. You have nothing else to do, and though it may not seem interesting to you after you had written it, it would be a good deal of company to me in this "busy wilderness." Tell your sister I don't want to hear any more about selling out and moving. That gives me the "hypo" whenever I think about it.

Yours, etc.,

Lincoln

Lincoln saw Mary in New Salem that summer but the couple seems to have arrived at no understanding. He wrote her again shortly after their meeting.⁴⁴

Springfield, August 16, 1837

FRIEND MARY: You will no doubt think it rather strange that I should write you a letter on the same day on which we parted, and I can only account for it by supposing that seeing you lately makes me think of you more than usual; while at our late meeting we had but few expressions of thoughts. You must know that I cannot see you or think of you with entire indifference; and yet it may be that you are mistaken in regard to what my real feelings toward you are. If I knew you were not, I should not trouble you with this letter. Perhaps any other man would know enough without further information; but I consider it my peculiar right to plead ignorance, and your boundan duty to allow the plea. I want in all cases to do right, and most particularly so in all cases with women. I want at this particular time, more than anything else, to do right with you; and if I knew it would be doing right, as I rather suspect it would, to let you alone, I would do it. And for the purpose of making the matter as plain as possible, I now say that you can drop the subject, dismiss your thoughts (if you ever had any) from me forever, and leave this letter unanswered, without calling forth one accusing murmur from me. And I will even go further, and say that if it will add anything to your comfort or peace of mind to do so, it is my sincere wish that you should. Do not understand by this

that I wish to cut your acquaintance. I mean no such thing. What I do wish is that our further acquaintance shall depend upon yourself. If such further acquaintance would contribute nothing to your happiness, I am sure it would not to mine. If you feel yourself in any degree bound to me, I am now willing to release you, provided you wish it; while, on the other hand, I am willing and even anxious to bind you faster, if I can be convinced that it will, in any considerable degree, add to your happiness. This, indeed, is the whole question with me. Nothing would make me more miserable than to believe you miserable—nothing more happy than to know you were so.

In what I have now said, I think I cannot be misunderstood, and to make myself understood is the only object of this letter.

If it suits you best not to answer this, farewell. A long life and a merry one attend you. But if you conclude to write back, speak as plainly as I do. There can be neither harm nor danger in saying anything you think, just in the manner you think it.

My respects to your sister.

Your friend,

Lincoln

No answer to this uncertain proposal is known to exist. The months passed. On the first of April 1838 Lincoln sent a letter outlining the history of his relationship with Mary Owens to Eliza Browning, the trusted wife of a friend. Lincoln seems to have been somewhat chagrined to have been rejected by Miss Owens. After making derisive remarks about her appearance he goes on to praise her intelligence and quick mind. He relates her repeated rejection of his proposals and his feelings, not of relief, as expected, but of mortification. He finally says “And, to cap the whole, I then for the first time began to suspect that I was really a little in love with her.” For Mary’s part, the relationship was at an end. She later confided, “His training had been different from mine; there was not congeniality; he was deficient in those little things which make up a woman’s happiness – at least it was true in my case. One can’t help but believe they were both relieved that the rather half-hearted relationship was finally terminated.”⁴⁵

POLITICS

In 1835 Democratic leaders approached Lincoln, urging him to run for a Legislative seat. By supporting Lincoln, the Democrats hoped to defeat John Todd Stuart, a Whig leader. Lincoln consulted Stuart, a former Kentuckian he had met during his military service. Stuart, confident of winning, told Lincoln to accept the offer. Both Lincoln and Stuart won. It was about this time that Lincoln decided to become a lawyer, one of the most important decisions of his career. He had observed the informal proceedings at the county circuit court and had learned that most of the leading lawyers were self-educated. Encouraged by Stuart, Lincoln embarked on one of his intensive courses of self-study. While serving in the legislature he also continued to serve as postmaster, delivering mail two days a week, and taking on surveying jobs as they arose.

J. T. STUART AND A. LINCOLN, ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

Lincoln came to New Salem with little in the way of experience that prepared him for ‘town life.’ He had worked as a farmer and a rail splitter and he had some experience as a flatboatman and a miller. In accepting the position at Offutt’s store, Lincoln learned a trade and gained valuable experience in business. He advanced to owning his own store and held the position of postmaster. He learned surveying. Finally, he entered politics and began to study law. In 1836 Lincoln won reelection to the state legislature. That year he was also granted his law license. He and John Stuart decided to enter into a partnership. In April 1837 a notice appeared in the Springfield newspaper announcing that “J. T. Stuart and A. Lincoln, Attorneys and Counselors at Law, will practice, conjointly, in the courts of this Judicial Circuit. – Office No. 4 Hoffman’s Row, up stairs. Springfield April 12, 1837.”⁴⁶

Three days later, Lincoln rode into Springfield on a borrowed horse and with all of his possessions in two saddlebags. He stopped at a store to inquire about the cost of a bed and bedding. Joshua Speed, one of the proprietors, waited on him. When told the total cost would be \$17.00 he replied that he did not have the money. He asked for credit, telling Speed that he had come to town to try “an experiment as a lawyer” saying that if he failed, “I don’t know that I can ever pay you.” Speed had heard one of Lincoln’s speeches and knew something of his reputation. Knowing how difficult it was to find a room in Springfield he invited Lincoln to share his lodgings. Lincoln, his saddlebag over his arm, went upstairs to look at the room. He set his belongings on the floor and came back down the stairs, his solemn face transformed by a broad smile, he exclaimed, “Well, Speed I am moved.” Joshua Speed’s simple gesture began a lifelong friendship.⁴⁷

Lincoln won reelection to the state legislature in 1838 and again in 1840. He was an active politician who quickly became adept at legislative procedure and politics. He was well known in political circles across the state and liked even by his opponents. During the 1840 presidential campaign he made the only political speech in Kentucky in his career. His efforts on behalf of “Tippecanoe and Tyler too” brought him to Shawneetown near the Ohio River. George W. Riddell and other Whig adherents in Morganfield persuaded him to speak at a rally they had planned. A float drawn by two white horses featured lovely girls who represented the states of the Union. Unfortunately, the cannon exploded while the salute was being fired. No one was seriously harmed, however, and the rally continued. No record was kept of Lincoln’s speech but it was probably similar to others he delivered in the stirring campaign that elected William Henry Harrison the first Whig president.⁴⁸

Joshua Speed’s store served as something of a social center for young single men. Lincoln rapidly made friends, among them another new arrival in Springfield, William Herndon, who was clerking for Speed. Night after night young men met at the fireplace at the back of the store to talk politics and local events. They traded anecdotes, held informal debates on just about any subject and read each other’s poetry and other writings. But not all of his social life centered on Speed’s establishment. His law partner, John Todd Stuart, was one of the most prominent lawyers in Springfield. Stuart, who had aspirations of becoming a U.S. Congressman, left most of the firm’s work to Lincoln, who gained valuable experience working on a number of different types of cases. His association with Stuart opened many doors for Lincoln; and Stuart took the time to introduce his new partner to the more exclusive social circles in Springfield.⁴⁹

MARY TODD

It was through his law partner that Lincoln met Mary Ann Todd. A cousin of Stuart’s, Miss Todd was making an extended visit to her sisters in Springfield. Mary Todd had made a three-month visit to Springfield in the summer of 1837 but had not met Lincoln, although she heard a great deal about him from her two lawyer cousins, Stuart and Stephen T. Logan, who had also served with Lincoln in the Black Hawk War. Her brother-in-law, Ninian Edwards, also knew Lincoln, who, like Edwards, had been a member of the celebrated “Long Nine” from Sangamon County in the General Assembly in Vandalia. Mary heard that Lincoln was fond of the society of women but shy in their presence; that he suffered bouts of depression but had a keen wit and an ear for a humorous story. Lincoln, his friends told Mary, was a shrewd politician but a man of unwavering integrity and honesty. Although he was known to while away hours with shallow, often-times inebriated companions, he was a man of intelligence and a logical thinker who was a gifted stump speaker and an able debater.⁵⁰

When Mary Todd returned to Springfield in 1839 she entered into the youthful social circle that revolved around her sister Elizabeth and Elizabeth’s husband, Ninian W. Edwards, son of the former governor of



Mary Ann Todd Lincoln.

Illinois. Mary was soon the belle of Springfield, with a bevy of admirers. She finally met Abraham Lincoln at a dance. Lincoln, as awkward with women as always, approached Mary and told her that he wanted to dance with her in the worst way. A friend who overheard the conversation later asked Mary if he had danced with her in the worst way, “Yes,” Mary replied, “the very worst.” In spite of his lack of social refinement, Mary Todd was attracted to Lincoln. For his part, Lincoln was fascinated with the polished, charming Miss Todd.⁵¹

The two could not have been more different. Mary Todd, then 20, had lived a privileged life. Born on December 13, 1818, she was the fourth child of Eliza and Robert Todd. Her mother was the daughter of Robert Parker, a successful merchant and landowner. Her father was the son of Levi Todd, who, with his brothers John and Robert, had come to Kentucky in the frontier era. They acquired large landholdings, helped found Lexington, and were men of influence in the political and economic affairs of Kentucky. Robert Todd graduated from Transylvania University and had become a lawyer, although he never practiced law, concentrating instead on his business and land interests.⁵²

Eliza Todd died in childbirth on July 6, 1825. Robert’s unmarried sister, Ann Maria, came to help with the household and children but Robert felt that he needed a wife and that the children needed a mother. Less than six months after his wife’s death he began courting Elizabeth (Betsy) Humphreys. They were married the following November. Unfortunately, Robert’s six children disliked their stepmother, feelings encouraged by their maternal grandmother, Eliza Parker. These feelings only strengthened when Robert and Betsy had children of their own.

Mary Todd was headstrong, high strung and intellectually precocious and she often clashed with her stepmother. Her father’s solution was to give Mary an education rare for a female child. At the age of eight she entered Dr. John Ward’s academy with 120 pupils from the best Bluegrass families, where she remained for six years. She excelled. She then spent four years in the boarding school run by Mme. Victoire Charlotte LeClere Mentell. The school was on the Richmond Pike opposite Henry Clay’s estate, Ashland. Mary spent the week at school, the weekends at home, which by then was a large house on Main Street. By the age of 18 Mary was well educated in academic subjects, fluent in French and well versed in the social skills, including dancing. She avidly read whatever newspapers she could, cultivating a knowledge of politics, which she found fascinating.⁵³

As different as they were, both Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln were intelligent, witty and ambitious. They shared a love of poetry and, perhaps more importantly, politics. The Todd home was a gathering place for all of the prominent Whigs in Kentucky and Mary knew all of them, including Henry Clay, the man Lincoln admired above all others. She had heard Clay, Robertson, Menifee, Marshall, Crittenden and others discuss political issues in her home’s parlor. That Mary was well versed on the issues of the day and took as keen interest in politics as he did must have seemed a wonder to Abraham Lincoln. After their initial meeting, Abraham spent as much time as possible with the charming Mary Todd and in late 1840 the couple announced their engagement.⁵⁴

Almost immediately, Lincoln began to have doubts about his decision to marry, and his ability to give Mary

Todd the type of life she was used to. Joshua Speed dissuaded Lincoln from writing to Mary to tell her he did not love her and wished to break the engagement. Joshua told him that once written, words could not be erased, advising him to speak to Mary in person. Lincoln did so and Mary released him from the engagement in tears, telling him she had not changed her mind.

Lincoln, still in doubt, fell into a deep depression. His state of mind was not helped by Joshua Speed's impending return to Kentucky. The decision, made upon the death of Speed's father some weeks earlier, meant not only the loss of his friend's proximity but also that he had to find new lodgings. Lincoln took to his bed, where he remained for a week, seeing only Joshua Speed and Dr. Anson G. Henry. One friend wrote another that Lincoln "is reduced and emaciated in appearance and seems scarcely to possess strength enough to speak above a whisper. His case is at present truly deplorable." Still dispirited, Lincoln returned to the legislature in late January.⁵⁵

In May, Lincoln and John Todd Stuart dissolved their business arrangement by mutual consent. Stuart had been in Washington for most of the last two years and his reelection seemed assured. They parted on good terms and Lincoln soon found another partner in Stephen T. Logan, a Whig and another cousin of Mary Todd, who had practiced in Kentucky for ten years. Logan and Lincoln were well suited as partners. Logan, one of the leaders of the Springfield bar, took Lincoln into the firm because of his excellent reputation as a trial lawyer. In spite of his skill, the legal profession was secondary to Lincoln, whose passion was politics.⁵⁶

Lincoln had promised Joshua Speed that he would visit him at Farmington and in August 1841, still far from well, he kept that promise. At Farmington, for the first time in his life, he lived in luxury, a luxury made possible, in part, by slavery. He became friendly with the Speed family, spending time with Joshua's half sister Mary and walking into Louisville to borrow books from Joshua's brother James, who had a law office there. He had long talks with Mrs. Speed and spent a great deal of time walking and talking with Joshua, who was having romantic difficulties of his own. He was engaged to Fanny Henning and was having the same doubts that plagued Lincoln. Lincoln did what he could to allay his friend's fears but Joshua still had doubts when Lincoln returned to Springfield after three weeks at Farmington.

As the wedding drew closer, Lincoln wrote Speed from Springfield, "In two or three months, to say the most, you will be the happiest of men." In the months following the wedding Lincoln was heartened to receive news of Joshua's happiness. In early July 1842 Lincoln wrote Joshua, "Before I resolve to do the one thing or the other, I must regain my confidence in my own ability to keep my resolves once they are made." Lincoln had not lost his feelings for Mary Todd. Some of their circle was determined to reunite the couple and a friend invited them to her home separately. They reconciled, in large part due to the efforts of John Hardin, one of Mary's cousins, and his wife Sarah, and began meeting each other secretly at the same friend's house.⁵⁷

Lincoln again sought reassurance from Joshua Speed, who replied that he was indeed very happy in his marriage of several months time. Thus reassured, Lincoln repeated his proposal to Mary Todd and was again accepted. This time the engagement was kept a secret. The morning of the day they had chosen to marry, the couple informed Ninian and Elizabeth Edwards of their intentions. Elizabeth hastily did what she could in the way of preparations and managed to gather about two dozen guests who were present at the ceremony, which took place in the Edward's home on November 4, 1842.⁵⁸

LOGAN & LINCOLN

Like many newly married couples, Abraham and Mary took a small room at the Globe Tavern in Springfield. Lincoln then turned his attention to building his law practice. His new law partner, Stephen Logan, was nine years Lincoln's senior. Logan had established his reputation in Kentucky as the Commonwealth's attorney and was without question the leading figure in the Sangamon bar. He had taken Lincoln on because he recognized that Lincoln's wide range of acquaintances from his years as postmaster, surveyor and other jobs would prove useful. Almost everyone in the county recognized Lincoln on sight. He was also known for his skill before a jury. Logan saw Lincoln as an asset. True, he needed polishing, but Logan recognized his abilities. Logan had an exceptional knowledge of the law and taught Lincoln the importance of careful preparation and the drafting of a comprehensive brief before representing a client in court. Lincoln's skill in preparing briefs, which at the time was more important than oral presentations, made him a formidable adversary and his reputation grew across the state.⁵⁹

On August 1, 1843, not quite nine months after their wedding, the Lincolns first child was born. Mary named him Robert Todd after her father. The room at the Globe, just eight by fourteen feet, was hardly large enough for a family. Some weeks later, the Lincolns rented a small three-room house on Fourth Street. Mary's father came to visit, meeting his son-and-law and grandson both for the first time. Robert Todd liked Abraham Lincoln and was well informed as to his reputation. To help the young couple, Todd employed Lincoln to handle some Illinois land cases. Lincoln enjoyed a good relationship with his father-in-law, once Todd's initial shock to his daughter's marriage to an unknown had worn off. Meanwhile, Lincoln's skill as a lawyer grew and so did his reputation. Through hard work he raised his income to about \$1,500 a year, a good salary for Springfield at the time. In January 1844 he purchased a one-and-one-half-story frame house.⁶⁰

That same year, Lincoln and Logan agreed to end their very successful partnership. Logan wanted to bring his son into the firm, which necessitated splitting the income three ways, which Lincoln was loath to do. In addition, both men had plans to run for congress, which meant competing for the same seat. Logan and Lincoln dissolved their partnership in an amicable fashion. They continued to work on an occasional case together for as long as Lincoln practiced law.⁶¹

LINCOLN & HERNDON

Lincoln asked William H. Herndon, an apprentice at the firm, if he wished to enter into a partnership with him. A surprised Herndon readily agreed. Herndon was right to be surprised. During his years of partnership with Logan, Lincoln had become a prominent lawyer. He could have his pick of distinguished partners so it was little wonder that many found his choice of Herndon inexplicable. But Lincoln wanted to be the head of his own firm; he wanted an assistant, not an equal partner. His reputation was such that he did not need a prestigious partner to bring in business. Although Herndon did not really like the law, Lincoln believed he would become a capable lawyer with experience. Another point in Herndon's favor were his connections with the "shrewd, wild boys about town," as the young non-aristocratic element of the local Whig party was known. Lincoln needed their support if he was to win a congressional seat. Lincoln also had a genuine liking for Herndon and knew that he could depend on his absolute loyalty.⁶²

William Herndon was a Kentucky native, born in Green County in 1818. Two years later his family, like so many Kentuckians, moved to Illinois. William's father, Archer Herndon, who owned the Indiana Queen Hotel, had served in the legislature with Lincoln. William clerked for Joshua Speed for a year and then attended Illinois College for a year. He returned to Speed's store where he became acquainted with Lincoln.

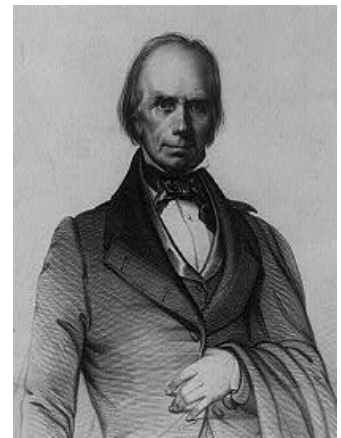
In 1842 he began studying law with Logan and Lincoln. Herndon was five feet nine inches tall, a well-dressed dandy and a non-stop talker. He bubbled with enthusiasm for the new venture Lincoln invited him to join.⁶³

The partners took a single room on the second floor of the Tinsley Building near the courthouse. It was sparsely furnished with an old sofa, tables that served as desks, a few cane bottomed chairs, and a bookcase, which held mostly Herndon's books. There were no filing cabinets and no files. Lincoln often kept his important papers in his stovepipe hat, which Herndon said was Lincoln's "desk and memorandum book." Neither man was orderly and the office was in a constant state of disarray. Papers were lost so often in the office that Lincoln kept a bundle tied with a string on his desk. It carried the notation: "When you can't find it anywhere else, look into this." But the partners did not lack for business. The fee book for 1847 listed over one hundred cases handled by Lincoln before he left in October to take his seat in Congress.⁶⁴

HENRY CLAY

Lincoln avidly read any newspaper he could find. He received the *Louisville Journal* at his law office and regularly read the newspapers on the exchange table at the *Sangamo Journal*, edited by his friend Simeon Francis. It was not until his marriage to Mary Todd, however, that he had regular access to a southern newspaper. The *Lexington Recorder & Observer*, staunchly Whig in its viewpoint, was received regularly by the Lincoln household. In 1844 the paper was full of the news that Henry Clay, who had twice run in the past and twice been defeated, was making another bid for the presidency. In every issue, a significant amount of space was devoted to the efforts being made by Senator Robert S. Todd in behalf of "Harry of the West." Column after column was devoted to Clay's opinions on the issues of the day and detailed sketches of his life at Ashland, his estate outside of Lexington. For Lincoln, the articles provided the first in-depth look at the man he so admired.⁶⁵

Lincoln, a Whig elector for Illinois, campaigned tirelessly for Clay. He debated almost daily with supporters of Democratic candidate James K. Polk. The campaign took him to almost every part of the state and across the Wabash into Indiana, near his boyhood home. Wherever Lincoln campaigned, Clay's opponents heaped abuse upon Clay, citing his temper, card playing and dueling as unworthy of a man of honor and leader of this nation. Lincoln replied vigorously to Clay's detractors. The campaign received a great deal of press and "excited much popular feeling." The Lincolns anxiously awaited the results of the election that took place on November 4, 5, and 6. They knew that it would be days before the results were tabulated and sent to Springfield. The *Observer* reported on November 13 that the results seemed to hinge on the state of New York. A few days later the news came that Polk had taken New York by a narrow margin and won the election. The Lincolns were greatly disappointed by Clay's defeat but the campaign Lincoln waged in Clay's behalf brought him recognition throughout Illinois and beyond, putting him in a position from which he was able to launch a successful campaign for Congress.⁶⁶



Henry Clay.

A TERM IN WASHINGTON

The year 1846 was momentous for the Lincolns. In March a second son, Edward Baker, was born and in November Lincoln fulfilled one of his greatest ambitions, winning a seat in Congress. Lincoln's opponent in the election was Peter Cartwright, a militant, vehemently anti-slavery, anti-whiskey, Methodist circuit rider twenty-four years older than Lincoln. Cartwright was

a formidable opponent. His supporters drew attention to Lincoln's aristocratic in-laws. They denounced him as a friend of drunkards and as an infidel who scorned religion. The tactics employed by Cartwright's supporters proved ineffective. Lincoln won the election by an unprecedented majority. He was the only Whig candidate for Congress elected in Illinois.⁶⁷

The Thirtieth Congress did not meet until December 1847, meaning that Lincoln had to wait a year to take his seat. On October 25, 1847 Lincoln, Mary, and their sons began the long journey to Lexington, which Mary had not visited since her move to Springfield in 1839. Only her father had met Lincoln and their sons. The family spent three weeks in Lexington during which time Lincoln was introduced to many of the Todd's friends. Mary took him to meet Henry Clay. A few days later Clay spoke at the courthouse and, while there is no documentation, it seems likely that Lincoln was in the audience, for he later made reference to the "uncommon good sense" Clay exhibited in his arguments. Lincoln spent hours reading in the extensive Todd library. He visited with some of the city's noted lawyers and spent considerable time at the courthouse, talking politics and listening to opinions on local and national events. For the first time he also had the opportunity to study the institution of slavery in some depth.⁶⁸

On Thanksgiving Day the Lincolns resumed their trip to Washington. Once there, they took rooms at Mrs. Sprigg's boardinghouse just across from the Capitol. Many of their fellow boarders were Whig Congressmen. None seem to have been accompanied by their wives as Lincoln was. That Mary had accompanied her husband to Washington was untraditional in itself; that she traveled with young children was almost unheard of. Mary wanted to share Lincoln's success, as David Davis wrote his wife, "She wishes to loom largely." At first, both of the Lincolns found Washington exciting. Lincoln, as always, was immediately popular with their fellow boarders. Mary, however, soon grew bored and dissatisfied. She lived in a house populated only with men who cared little for her opinion. The other residents complained about her noisy, rambunctious children. Mary had little opportunity to enjoy Washington's cultural events and social life and she could not entertain in the boardinghouse. Lincoln's duties required his complete attention. He often worked in the evenings or attended lectures and speeches, including one given by Henry Clay on January 18 at the meeting of the American Colonization Society. At Lincoln's urging Mary took the boys to Lexington in the spring of 1848 and they spent much of the summer at Buena Vista, Mrs. Todd's summer estate. That fall she and the children accompanied Lincoln on a campaign tour of New England and then Mary returned to Springfield where she waited for Lincoln's return. Lincoln made at least one trip to Kentucky in 1848, traveling to Lexington to hear Henry Clay speak.⁶⁹

Lincoln immersed himself in his work. He was not overawed by the House of Representatives, finding that most of the members were men of moderate ability and local reputation. His experience in the state legislature had given him grounding in parliamentary procedure. Speaking from the floor of the House was initially intimidating but he soon found that it was not more or less difficult than speaking in court. He served on the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads and the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department but spent most of his time answering his correspondence, without, of course, the aid of a secretary or assistant. His one notable action was to lead the Whig attack on President Polk regarding his role in the initiation of the war with Mexico.⁷⁰

1849-1854: YEARS OF CHANGE

Lincoln's term in Congress ended in March 1849. Like his predecessors, he had pledged to serve only one term, a pledge he regretted having given but which he honored. Instead, he turned his attention to his neglected law practice. His partner, "Billy" Herndon did almost all of the research and then turned the

significant information over to Lincoln, who prepared clear and logical briefs. Lincoln usually presented their cases in court, his skill before a jury being one of his strengths. The firm did considerable business in the federal courts and Lincoln earned a reputation for his presentations before the Supreme Court of Illinois. A growing portion of his business was connected to railroads and the Illinois Central Railroad became one of his most profitable clients. Lincoln was gone for three months twice a year riding the circuit, which he did not only for the extra money he earned but also for the male camaraderie and the contacts he made. He handled hundreds of cases in the circuit courts, firmly reestablishing his reputation as a lawyer, a reputation based on his honesty and fair dealing.⁷¹

Lincoln, Mary Todd, and the family visited Lexington again in 1849 following the death of Mary's father of cholera in July. While there, Lincoln represented the four Todd heirs who lived in Springfield after George Todd objected to the probate of Robert Todd's will. Lincoln also assumed responsibility for a lawsuit that was unresolved when Robert Todd died. The Lincolns also had the opportunity to see friends and family, often visiting Mary's stepmother and her young half-siblings at Buena Vista. They also spent a great deal of time at Mary's childhood home on Short Street, now the home of her brother, Levi Todd. Mary's maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Parker, still lived next door. In November Lincoln finished his business in Lexington and he and Mary returned to Springfield.⁷²

On January 26 of the new year, Elizabeth Parker died at her home. Even as they received the news of Mrs. Parker's death, the Lincolns were hoping for the recovery of their youngest son, Eddie. Their hope was in vain. Eddie had contracted pulmonary tuberculosis, then known as consumption, the most lethal disease in the United States at the time. There was no effective treatment. The child had been ill for over seven weeks when he died on the morning of February 1. Several weeks later, the Lincolns returned to Lexington, using the excuse of business in connection with the Parker estate to escape the house in Springfield. Lincoln, however, remained only long enough to deal with business matters before returning to Springfield, leaving Mary and Robert with Mrs. Todd at Buena Vista.⁷³

During the years in Indiana, Lincoln's relationship with his father had become strained. They differed as to the importance of education and how much was enough. Much to his father's displeasure, Lincoln never became a member of the Pigeon Creek Baptist Church, which Tom Lincoln had helped build. He also showed no liking or aptitude for physical labor and his father considered him lazy. Father and son grew increasingly dissatisfied with one another and that estrangement continued for the rest of Thomas Lincoln's life. Abraham Lincoln was, in contrast, very close to his stepmother, Sally. When riding circuit near Coles County he often visited. As he became more successful, Lincoln provided financial support for his parents. In May 1849, Lincoln received word that his father was ill and anxious to see him. Although he was campaigning to secure appointment as commissioner of the General Land Office, Lincoln made the trip to Coles County, finding upon his arrival that his father was already recovering. In early 1851 Lincoln again received word that his father was ill but after considerable delay wrote that his business would not allow him to make the trip to see him and that, in any case, his wife was confined to bed after giving birth to their third child. Thomas died five days after Lincoln wrote; he did not attend his father's funeral.⁷⁴

Just weeks after Eddie's death, Mary Lincoln became pregnant, a condition she greatly desired. On December 21, 1850 she delivered her third son, whom she named William Wallace after her physician brother-in-law who had helped during Eddie's illness. The last of her children, another son, was born on April 4, 1853. This son they named for Lincoln's recently deceased father. The child was born with an unusually large head and Lincoln called him 'a little tadpole.' Thomas Lincoln would be "Tad" for the rest of his life.⁷⁵

The adoption of Henry Clay's compromise proposals in 1850 seemed to settle the slavery question for all time. Lincoln had not run again for a house seat that year, being disappointed that no popular demand had arisen for his re-election. He believed his political days were over but remained active in the Whig party in Illinois. As a senior member of the party, he was called upon to deliver a eulogy in Chicago for President Zachary Taylor when he died in July of 1850.⁷⁶

Two years later, Lincoln delivered a eulogy for Henry Clay in the hall of the Illinois House of Representatives. Later, Lincoln would say that Henry Clay was "my beau ideal of a statesman, the man for whom I fought all my humble life." Lincoln's early leanings found perfect expression in the ideas of Henry Clay. He shared many of Clay's ideas and felt tremendous admiration for both the man and the accomplishments of his political career. One of his greatest political disappointments had come in 1848 when he felt it necessary to support Zachary Taylor instead of Clay for the Whig nomination for president; knowing that Clay could not win but that Taylor had at least a chance.⁷⁷

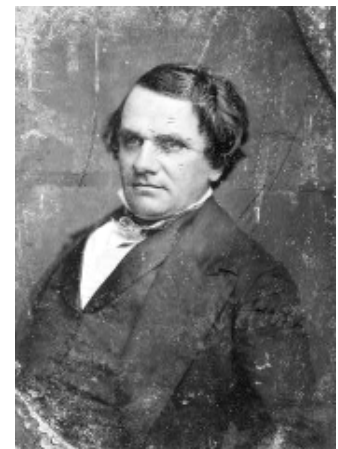
THE KANSAS-NEBRASKA ACT

On May 30, 1854 the Kansas-Nebraska Act, sponsored by Stephen A. Douglas, a senator from Illinois, became law. The Missouri Compromise crafted by Henry Clay in 1850 was overturned. Lincoln listened to Cassius M. Clay speak at Springfield on July 10, "Whittling sticks as he lay on the turf," said Clay. Lincoln later wrote, "I was losing interest in politics when the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused me again." He reentered the political arena, speaking against the Kansas-Nebraska Act on August 26 at a Whig convention in Scott County, Illinois. From that point on he became an active participant in the debate surrounding the controversial bill, speaking at numerous Whig meetings. On October 4, 1854 Lincoln gave a three-hour speech in the Hall of Representatives in Springfield in response to that presented the day before by Stephen Douglas. Douglas answered in a two-hour speech. The speech strengthened Lincoln's reputation as a powerful speaker, and one who was opposed to any expansion of slavery. Lincoln decided to run for a seat in the U.S. Senate.⁷⁸

When the legislature cast the first vote for the senate seat, Lincoln had 45 votes, just five short of the number required for election. On subsequent ballots, however, his votes dwindled while support for anti-Nebraska Democrat Lyman Trumbull grew. When Democratic governor Joel A. Matson was only three votes from election, Lincoln instructed his supporters to vote for Trumbull. Lincoln was disappointed in the results but had entered the race believing he had little chance of success.

Mary Lincoln was bitterly disappointed and thereafter refused to speak to Mrs. Trumbull, the former Julia Jayne, who had been her close friend for years. Lincoln realized that this defeat meant that he would be free to oppose Stephen Douglas, whom he blamed for much of the current slavery controversy, when he came up for reelection in 1858, a contest that Trumbull pledged to help him win.⁷⁹

Judge George Robertson of Lexington traveled to Springfield in the summer of 1855. He was unable to meet Lincoln, who was riding circuit, but he left him a copy of his *Scrap Book on Law and Politics, Men and Times*. Robertson had been active in politics, serving in the U.S. House of Representatives where he had been involved in the passage of the Missouri Compromise. Lincoln read Robertson's book, learning that Congress had acted on the question of slavery in a territory in 1819, before the Missouri



Lincoln's political foe,
Stephen A. Douglas

Compromise was passed. Judge Robertson's publication provided Lincoln with a historical perspective on the problem of slavery and gave him much food for thought.⁸⁰

Lincoln and Joshua Speed remained close friends after Speed returned to Farmington, although their correspondence was somewhat irregular. In a letter Speed wrote Lincoln in May 1855 he suggested that he and Lincoln were now at odds politically. Lincoln replied on August 24 saying that he believed they differed less than Speed supposed. He used Speed as a sounding board, expressing and clarifying his thoughts on slavery, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and his reluctance to join the newly-formed Republican Party, even though the Whig party was crumbling over the slavery issue. He ended his letter, "Our progress in degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid. As a nation, we began by declaring that "*all men are created equal*." We now practically read it "all men are created equal, *except negroes*". When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read "all men are created equal except negroes, *and foreigners, and Catholics*." When it comes to this I should prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty – to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy [*sic*]. He closed the letter on a personal note, writing "Mary will probably pass a day or two in Louisville in October. My kindest regards to Mrs. Speed. On the leading subject of this letter, I have more of her sympathy than I have of yours. And yet, let me say I am Your friend forever A. Lincoln."⁸¹

THE NEW ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN PARTY

Reflection over a period of months led Lincoln to the conclusion that the only practical course was to form a new political party in Illinois made up of those who opposed the expansion of slavery. Against the advice of friends he worked diligently to organize the new Illinois Republican Party, which adopted a moderate platform at the Bloomington convention. He supported the nomination of John McLean of Ohio at the convention in Philadelphia, but the party's final choice was John C. Fremont. The Illinois delegation nominated Lincoln for vice-president, although he said that the 110 votes were actually intended for "the famous Lincoln," Massachusetts Governor Levi Lincoln. Once Fremont was chosen as the party's candidate Lincoln campaigned energetically on his behalf, making some fifty speeches in central and southern Illinois, areas populated by a number of former Kentuckians. Republican editors stressed Lincoln's Kentucky birth and associations. Mary, in a letter to her sister, voiced her support of the American Party candidate, former President Millard Fillmore. Buchanan won the election but Fremont and the new Republican Party made a remarkable showing. Lincoln believed the Republicans could win in 1860 if they could capture most of the votes cast for Fillmore in 1856 and win the support of other anti-slavery groups. Lincoln had no interest in the presidency for himself; his political goal remained the Senate seat.⁸²

After the presidential election, Lincoln again turned his attention to his somewhat neglected legal practice and the necessity of making money. Part of his earnings were used to enlarge the small one-story Lincoln home into a sizable two-story house. Mary furnished the improved house in an expensive style that reflected Lincoln's increased status. The improvements allowed Mary much more scope for entertaining, the political value of which she recognized. Although dinner parties were usually small, with half a dozen guests, in February she invited 500 guests and regretted that poor weather held attendance to only 300.⁸³

By 1858 Lincoln's reputation had spread north of the Ohio and west of the Mississippi and was rapidly spreading eastward. Although eastern Republicans wanted the party in Illinois to support Douglas in the 1858 senatorial election, they rejected the suggestion, unanimously nominating Lincoln. Lincoln, confident that he would be nominated, had carefully crafted his acceptance speech, which began "A house divided against itself cannot stand." The campaign that followed culminated in a series of seven widely reported

debates that attracted attention not only in Illinois but nationwide. Then, when the debates were over and the campaign was approaching its end, the Democrats circulated letters endorsing Douglas over Lincoln written by three of Mary Todd's oldest friends, John J. Crittenden, United States Senator; John C. Breckinridge, Vice President; and James B. Clay, the son of Henry Clay and congressman from the Lexington district. Throughout his campaign Lincoln had stressed Douglas' estrangement from Washington. He was seen as the defender of Henry Clay and his principles. Suddenly, the situation was altered. In the November 2 election, the Republicans won about 50% of the vote and got about 47% of the seats in the House. The Democrats won about 47% of the popular vote and 53% of the house seats. When the legislators voted on January 5, 1859, Douglas was reelected 54 to 46.⁸⁴

With his loss, Lincoln again believed his political career to be over. He devoted more time to his legal practice but he also labored to keep the Republican Party intact and to prepare it for the 1860 presidential election. Even before the senate election, a few newspapers had suggested that he might be a candidate for president or vice president, an idea Lincoln seemed to reject out of hand. When a suggestion that he run for the presidency was brought to his attention in 1859, he answered then as he had before, "I must, in candor, say I do not think myself fit for the presidency."⁸⁵

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Nevertheless, Lincoln recognized that none of the potential candidates was sure to secure the nomination, all had handicaps. Although he had failed twice in his bid for a Senate seat, Lincoln had not lost his political ambitions. He began to quietly advance the cause of his nomination without openly putting himself forth as a candidate. He gathered around him a group of dedicated and hardworking advisors. He published the records of the Lincoln-Douglas debates as a book and honored a request for information from political biographer Jesse W. Fell. He drew large crowds at speeches in Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati and he accepted an invitation to speak at the Brooklyn church of Henry Ward Beecher on February 27, 1860.⁸⁶

By the time Lincoln arrived in New York the speech had been moved to a much larger venue and was being sponsored by the Young Men's Central Republican Union. Several of the Young Republicans took Lincoln to Broadway for a brief tour. He stopped at Matthew Brady's studio, where he had his photograph taken. Lincoln's speech that night, given before a capacity audience, was a decided success. His reasoned arguments and clearly expressed ideas impressed his listeners, many of whom had expected a rough, uncultivated woodsman. After the New York speech Lincoln found himself much in demand at Republican rallies. For the next two weeks he spoke almost everyday. After the success of the trip East, Lincoln began to seriously consider a possible presidential nomination. When Senator Lyman Trumbull, with whom he corresponded regularly on party matters, asked him in April what his intentions were, Lincoln admitted, "I will be entirely frank The taste *is* in my mouth a little," adding, "Let no eye but your own see this."⁸⁷

As was traditional, Lincoln did not campaign openly – the office was supposed to seek the man - but relied on managers and supporters to advance his candidacy. Perhaps his most vocal supporter in Kentucky was Cassius Marcellus Clay. Barred from the House of Representatives, Clay spoke with his customary vigor from the portico of the capitol in Frankfort to a crowd that was less than supportive. Clay was undaunted by threats from proslavery men, who warned him not to keep his speaking engagement in Richmond in early April. Armed with two colt navy revolvers and the bowie knife he always carried, Clay explained the principles of the new party and strongly urged the nomination of Abraham Lincoln for president. "Many 'Union men' we are told declared for Lincoln that day," reported the *New York World*.⁸⁸



Cassius Marcellus Clay

Lincoln's campaign received an unexpected boost at the state party convention in early May when his cousin John Hanks was introduced and walked down the center aisle carrying, with the aid of an assistant, two fence rails alleged to have been made by Lincoln as a youth. A sign on the rails read:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The Rail Candidate

FOR PRESIDENT IN 1860

Two rails from a lot of 3,000 made in 1830 by Thos. Hanks and
Abe Lincoln – whose father was the first pioneer of Macon County

The stunt was the work of Richard Oglesby, a young local politician. Oglesby had consulted with John Hanks, who found a rail fence that he and Lincoln had built in 1830. When called to the platform Lincoln admitted that he had built a cabin and fence near Decatur in 1830, but said he could not vouch that he had made the two rails on display. He went on to say that he “had mauled many and many better ones since he had grown to manhood.” The crowd embraced the image of Abraham Lincoln as “the Rail Splitter” and “Honest Abe, the Rail Splitter” and what Lowell Harrison termed an “election myth of incalculable worth” was created. Lincoln rails were displayed widely during the state campaign and at its conclusion the state delegates were instructed to vote as a unit for Lincoln in Chicago.⁸⁹

Lincoln was tempted to attend the Republican convention in Chicago, saying “he was almost too much of a candidate to go and not quite enough to stay home.” He was wrong. From the opening of the convention Lincoln was a serious candidate. He received 231 of the necessary 233 votes on the fourth ballot. An Ohio delegate then took the floor and switched four votes to Lincoln, making him the party's nominee. Others followed suit, raising Lincoln's total to 364. At that point the supporters of Lincoln's only serious contender, William H. Seward, moved to make the vote unanimous. Lincoln, who had not attended the convention, received the news at the telegraph office in Springfield. Three days later an official delegation arrived to notify him of his nomination. Four days later, after studying the platform, Lincoln accepted the nomination.⁹⁰

Lincoln remained in Springfield for the rest of the campaign, as tradition and the advice of his campaign managers dictated. He ran against a split Democratic party, the northern faction endorsing Stephen Douglas and the southern faction endorsing Kentuckian John C. Breckinridge. The fourth candidate was Constitutional Union party candidate, John Bell. Lincoln and some friends went to the telegraph office on the evening of November 6 to await the election returns. At about two o'clock in the morning Lincoln learned that the party had carried New York; he had won the election.

Of the 145,860 votes cast in Kentucky Lincoln received only 1,364. Only two of those votes came from Lexington, his wife's hometown. Soon after the election Lincoln was pleased to receive a congratulatory telegram from Joshua Speed in which Speed offered to visit, and to bring news from Kentucky that Lincoln might find useful. Lincoln replied almost immediately, asking Speed to meet him in Chicago. He also relayed an invitation to Mrs. Speed, saying that Mary would be accompanying him to Chicago. Lincoln now knew that he had an ally in Kentucky that he could trust absolutely; it must have meant a great deal to him. In fact, Joshua and his brother James would support Lincoln until his death.⁹¹

WASHINGTON

Although Lincoln would not be inaugurated until the following March, the secession movement began immediately. As soon as it became clear that he had been elected, the state legislature of South Carolina called for a convention and on December 20, by a unanimous vote, severed the state's association with the United States of America. Over the next several weeks Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas followed suit. On February 9, 1861 Jefferson Davis was unanimously elected president of the newly formed Confederate States of America. The President-elect, meanwhile, was in Springfield. He opened his office to visitors and dealt with the baskets of mail that arrived each day. He issued no public statements and made no formal addresses; on the issue of secession he kept his own counsel.

THE CIVIL WAR

Lincoln was sworn in on March 4, 1861. Five weeks later, on April 12, the Confederates opened fire on Fort Sumter, which was commanded by Kentuckian Major Robert Anderson. Anderson surrendered with honors of war on April 14. The Civil War had begun. After the fall of Fort Sumter, the senator-elect of Kansas, James H. Lane, and Cassius M. Clay formed the Frontier Guard and Clay Battalion, respectively, to defend the city. Clay was in Washington to receive instructions as minister to Russia when he hastily organized his small command. By June 8 Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Tennessee had joined the Confederacy.⁹²

Southern politicians actively solicited Kentucky's support while the state's Unionists seemed strangely apathetic. Although they were against secession, most refrained from taking any active role to discourage it. One notable exception was Dr. Robert J. Breckinridge, who was widely known and respected not only in Kentucky but the other border states as well. He began to mobilize his friends in these states for the Union. In spite of efforts on both sides, support for the idea of a neutral Kentucky was growing. By May 19 both the Kentucky House of Representatives and the Kentucky Senate had passed resolutions supporting a neutral stance. Joshua Speed wrote Joseph Holt, former Secretary of War, for help in guiding Kentucky in the right direction. "Kentucky is nervous and excited, & the people struggling between loyalty to the government and deep seated distrust of the policy of the administration in regard to war ... For heaven sakes aid us if you can." Kentucky chose neutrality but few believed that it could last.⁹³

"TO LOSE KENTUCKY IS ... TO LOSE THE WHOLE GAME."

While remaining neutral in the conflict was no more legal than secession; it was much less of a threat to the Union. Lincoln understood Kentucky and Kentuckians. He knew that Kentucky was vital to the Union war effort and was determined to keep the state in the Union even if he had to accept this irregular measure to do so. Lincoln is reputed to have said that while he hoped to have God on his side, he had to have Kentucky. He wrote Senator Orville H. Browning, "I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game." Lincoln played Kentucky's neutrality skillfully and cautiously, doing nothing to drive Kentucky into the Confederacy. He worked diligently with state Unionists who used the period of neutrality to consolidate their position until they had a clear majority in the General Assembly, ending any chance of secession.⁹⁴

Joseph Holt responded to Joshua Speed's plea with a letter meant to be published. More than 30,000 copies were distributed across the state. In it, Holt denounced neutrality as being no more constitutional than secession, although its result was better. He charged the South with plotting to destroy the Union for years by refusing to compromise and asserted that the South wanted Kentucky to secede so that the Southern people would be sheltered behind her. Kentucky, he warned, would be sacrificed to protect the South; the

state's people would be taxed to death and with the inevitable collapse of the Confederacy, Kentucky would find that she had sacrificed everything and gained nothing. Holt returned to Kentucky and actively campaigned to elect Unionists to the legislature. A popular and effective speaker, he may have been the most effective voice for the Union during the summer of 1861. The August 5 elections resulted in Unionist majorities in both the House and Senate.⁹⁵

While Kentucky was an important part of the military front in the western theatre Lincoln maintained a keen interest in the military affairs of the state. After 1862 Lincoln's attention, of necessity, turned elsewhere. Although the Confederates staged repeated raids into the state they did not threaten Union control. While Lincoln's concern with Kentucky's affairs lessened it did not entirely cease. He always maintained a deep interest in his native state. He had many friends in Kentucky and Mary's family, a good many of them Southern sympathizers and some in the Confederate service, was also there.⁹⁶

James and Joshua Speed were in Washington on July 22, 1863 when Lincoln presented the draft of his emancipation proclamation to his cabinet members for their consideration. The president read the draft to the Speeds and asked for their reaction. Both advised him not to issue it. Cassius M. Clay, now back from Russia, advised just the opposite. Lincoln sent Clay to Kentucky to judge what the state's reaction would be if the proclamation was issued. Clay reported back that there would be no adverse reaction; he could not have been more wrong. Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. The proclamation, which applied only to states and parts of states that were in rebellion against the United States on January 1, 1863, stated, "all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free. As a Union state, Kentuckians were not affected by the Proclamation. Even so, Kentuckians were alarmed. If some slaves could be freed now, might not others be freed in the future, they argued. Some said that if the proclamation had been issued a year earlier, Kentucky would have joined the Confederacy. A minority talked of recalling all Kentuckians in the Union army. Governor Robinson denounced the proclamation."⁹⁷

PERSONAL SORROWS

The Civil War years brought complications and sorrow to the personal lives of the Lincolns, including the loss of their son, Willie. In February 1862 the war that everyone expected to end in three months was nine months old and going poorly for the Union. Lincoln carried an enormous burden that was only made heavier when both of his sons became ill with a high fever, which was probably typhoid. Tad recovered but eleven-year-old Willie, Mary's favorite son, died at the White House on February 20, 1862.⁹⁸

Mary was totally loyal both to her country and to her husband but throughout the war there were persistent rumors that Mary was pro-Confederate. Some believed she was a spy. Such rumors were totally false, as is the legend that Lincoln once appeared before a congressional committee to vouch for Mary's loyalty. The rumors surrounding Mary's loyalty sprang from the fact that she was from a slaveholding family, a number of whose members had Southern sympathies. The Todd family, like many Kentucky families, was divided by the Civil War. Eight of Robert Todd's surviving children supported the Confederacy, six the Union. Mary's full brother, George, served as a surgeon in a Confederate hospital in Camden, South Carolina. Her other full brother, Levi, supported the Union but was too old for military service. Mary's sisters and brothers-in-law in Illinois were also Union supporters. Three of her half brothers, Sam, David and Aleck, joined the Confederate Army.⁹⁹

One of Lincoln's favorite in-laws was Ben Hardin Helm, the spouse of Mary's half-sister Emilie Todd. In

April 1861 Lincoln offered Helm a commission as major in the paymaster division of the regular army, a position with tremendous opportunities. But Helm's sympathies were with the Confederacy. In September 1861 the West Point graduate was appointed colonel of the 1st Regiment of Kentucky Confederate Cavalry. In 1862, after the Battle of Shiloh, he was promoted to brigadier general. Helm was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863 while commanding the famous Orphan Brigade. When he learned of Helm's death Lincoln said to Judge David Davis in Illinois, "I feel as David did of old when he was told of the death of Absalom. 'Would to God that I had died for thee! Oh Absalom, my son, my son.'"¹⁰⁰

Helm's death was not only a personal loss but led to a politically embarrassing situation as well. Emilie, in the South with three young children, wanted to join her mother in Lexington. When General Grant did not respond to her request for a pass to cross Union lines she started home anyhow. She was halted at Fort Monroe, Virginia where she refused to take an oath of allegiance. The officers, unsure of what to do with the president's sister-in-law in this situation, wired Lincoln who tersely instructed them, "Bring her to me."¹⁰¹

Mary was still grieving over Willie's death and the sisters consoled each other. Lincoln was severely criticized by some for having a rebel in the White House; Emilie having refused to sign the oath that Lincoln had written out for her. She left in mid-December with an invitation to return as soon as she could. The following summer, Lincoln heard rumors that General Stephen G. Burbridge had refrained from arresting Emilie because of Lincoln's pass. Lincoln, despite his affection for "Little Sister," made it clear that his pass was not intended to protect Emilie from the consequences of disloyal words or acts. "Deal with her current conduct, just as you would with *any other*," he wrote.¹⁰²



Lincoln's personal life was filled with personal tragedy.

When Emilie returned to Washington in the fall of 1864 it was with a demand that she be issued a license to sell six hundred bales of cotton. Lincoln refused the license because Emilie still refused to sign an oath of allegiance. When an angry Emilie returned to Lexington she found that her brother, Levi, a Unionist had died. Bitter over recent events in Washington, she wrote a savage letter to the Lincolns blaming them for the death of Levi, whom Lincoln had refused to lend money to some months earlier. She concluded by saying, "I also remind you that your minie balls have made us what we are." Mary never saw or wrote to Emilie again.¹⁰³

Martha Todd White, Mary's half sister and the wife of Confederate Major Clement C. White of Selma, Alabama, also caused the Lincolns a great deal of embarrassment. Exploiting her relationship to Mary, Martha received a pass to visit Washington. When she arrived she derided the Union and behaved so badly that Mary refused to see her. Martha retaliated by making sure that everyone knew she was Mary's sister. When she left, it was amid rumors that her trunks were full of black market goods and medicines for the Confederacy.¹⁰⁴

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN OF 1864

A joint resolution to accept the proposed Thirteenth Amendment was passed in the Senate after three months of debate on April 11, 1864 but the House refused to give it the necessary two-thirds majority. Lincoln insisted that the passage of the amendment be included in the 1864 platform of the Union Party,

which nominated him for a second term. Lincoln easily secured his party's nomination for reelection when the convention met in Baltimore on June 6 and 7 but that summer he believed that he would probably lose the election. The war was not going well; the Union armies were stalled on all fronts. He was being criticized within his party for not being harsh enough on plans for the ultimate reconstruction of the Southern states. His acceptance of the abolition of slavery as a war aim antagonized those Northerners who saw restoration of the Union as the only legitimate object of the war.

In September there were a number of major Union victories and suddenly the prospect of a Union victory and the end of the war seemed much brighter. Lincoln was able to calm party differences, at least for the time being. The election in November was a confirmation of belief in Lincoln's leadership. The Democratic Party candidate, George McClellan, carried only three states, Kentucky, Delaware and New Jersey. The electoral vote was 212 to 21 and Lincoln had large majorities in both the popular vote and the separate soldier vote. Results in Kentucky were very different. The state witnessed a nasty campaign during which Lincoln was referred to as 'Abraham Africanus the First' because of his views on slavery and slaves. McClellan received 61,478 votes to Lincoln's 26,592 and 3,068 votes to Lincoln's 1,205 in the soldier vote. The total vote in the state was some 54,000 less than in 1860.¹⁰⁵

The House of Representatives finally passed the joint resolution on the Thirteenth Amendment on January 31, 1865. Although his signature was not required, a relieved Lincoln signed the resolution and forwarded copies to the state governors. The Kentucky Senate rejected the amendment February 20, 1865, a move followed by the House of Representatives February 23. Kentucky would refuse to add her endorsement even after the required three-quarters of the states had ratified the amendment on December 18, 1865.¹⁰⁶

FORD'S THEATRE

On April 4 Lincoln, accompanied by his son Tad, visited Richmond, where he was acclaimed by crowds of African Americans. Back in Washington, Lincoln learned that on the evening of April 9 General Robert E. Lee had surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox. Two nights later he spoke from a White House window to a celebrating crowd about his desire for a quick and easy reconstruction of the South. Lincoln did not live to see the end of slavery or the surrender of the last of the Confederate armies. On the evening of April 14, 1865, against the wishes of his advisors, The President and Mary Lincoln went to Ford's Theatre to see the popular farce, *Our American Cousin*.¹⁰⁷

End Notes

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³ McClure, *Two Centuries of Elizabethtown and Hardin County*, Hardin County Historical Society, Elizabethtown, Kentucky, 1971, p. 58; Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, p. 19.

⁴ John E. Kleber, editor in chief, *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 1992, p. 96 "Boone, Daniel," p. 100 "Boonesborough," and p. 495 "Kentucky County."

⁵ Kenneth J. Winkle, *The Young Eagle*, Taylor Trade Publishing, Dallas, Texas, 2001, pp. 2, 6; McClure, *Two Centuries*, pp. 58, 95; R. Gerald McMurty, "Thomas Lincoln in Elizabethtown, Kentucky," *Kentucky Progress Magazine*, Vol. V, No. 2, Winter 1933, p. 32; National Park Service, *Thomas Lincoln*, <http://www.nps.gov/libo/thomas>; Mabel Kunkle, *Abraham Lincoln: Unforgettable American*, The Delmar Company, Charlotte, North Carolina, 1976, pp. 23-24.

⁶ Kunkle, *Abraham Lincoln*, p. 24; Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, p. 21; Winkle, *The Young Eagle*, p. 7; William H. Townsend, *Lincoln and the Bluegrass*, The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 1955, p. 16; McClure,

- Two Centuries*, p. 96; National Park Service, *Thomas Lincoln*; Osso W. Stanley, "Abraham Lincoln and Nelson County," An address presented at Bardstown Kiwanis Club, February 12, 1952.
- ⁷ Mrs. E. O. Kelly, Mordecai Lincoln House, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1971, on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort; Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, pp. 20-21; Donald, *Lincoln*, p. 21.
- ⁸ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, p. 20; Donald, *Lincoln*, p. 22; McMurty, "Thomas Lincoln in Elizabethtown," p. 33.
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- ¹⁰ McClure, *Two Centuries*, pp. 96-99.
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- ¹³ Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial website, Nancy Lincoln Hanks, http://www.nps.gov/libo/nancy_hanks_lincoln3.htm; Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, p. 18.
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- ¹⁵ Hutton, *The Lincoln Marriage Temple*, pp. 30-32.
- ¹⁶ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, p. 21; McMurty, "Thomas Lincoln," p. 33; Carl Sandburg, *Abraham Lincoln Vol. I, The Prairie Years*, Harcourt, Brace & World, New York, 1926, p. 14.
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- ¹⁹ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, pp. 21-22, McClure, *Two Centuries*, p. 97.
- ²⁰ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, p. 24; Howell, *Lincoln's Kentucky Years*, p. 17.
- ²¹ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, p. 24; Howell, *Lincoln's Kentucky Years*, pp. 22-23.
- ²² Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, p. 25; Howell, *Lincoln's Kentucky Years*, pp. 22-23.
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- ²⁵ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, pp. 22, 23; Donald, *Lincoln*, p. 23.
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- ²⁹ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, pp. 28-29; Donald, *Lincoln*, p. 26.
- ³⁰ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, pp. 29-30; Donald, *Lincoln*, pp. 26-28.
- ³¹ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, pp. 30-36; Donald, *Lincoln*, pp. 28-31.
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- ³⁷ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, pp. 41-44.
- ³⁸ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, p. 59; Abraham Lincoln's Research Site, *Ann Rutledge*, <http://members.aol.com/RVSNorton/Lincoln34.html>; Winkle, *The Young Eagle*, p. -150.
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⁵¹ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, p. 69, Townsend, *Lincoln and the Bluegrass*, pp. 57, 66.

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⁵⁸ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, p. 74.

⁵⁹ Donald, *Lincoln*, pp. 98-99; Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, pp. 48-49.

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⁶¹ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, pp. 48-49.

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⁶⁹ Donald, *Lincoln*, pp. 120-122; Baker, *Mary Todd Lincoln*, pp. 59, 136-141.

⁷⁰ Donald, *Lincoln*, pp. 121-124.

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⁷⁴ Donald, *Lincoln*, pp. 32-33, 152-153; Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, pp. 30-37.

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⁷⁸ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, pp. 87-90; Townsend, *Lincoln and the Bluegrass*, pp. 210-213.

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⁹⁴ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, pp. 134-135, 138.

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¹⁰² Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, p. 219; Baker, *Mary Todd Lincoln*, p. 225.

¹⁰³ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, pp. 219-220; Baker, *Mary Todd Lincoln*, pp. 225-226.

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¹⁰⁶ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, p. 244.

¹⁰⁷ Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, p. 246; Donald, *Lincoln*, p. 594.

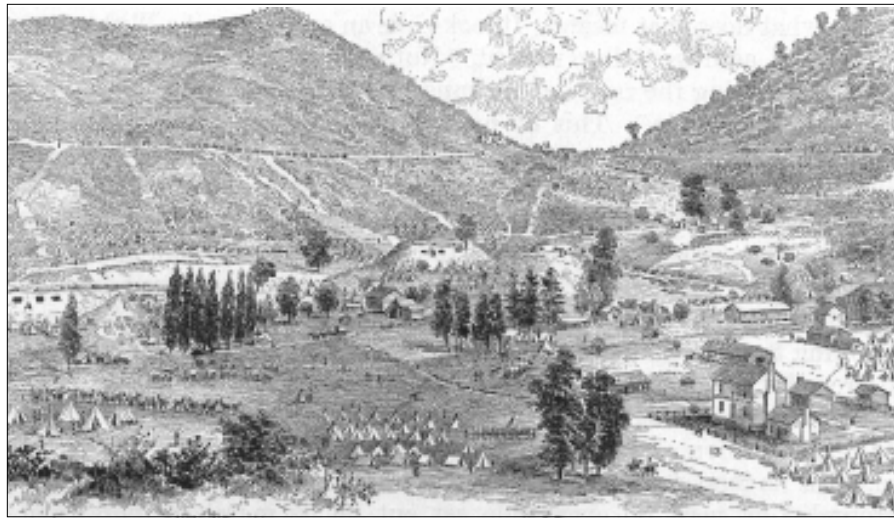
BELL COUNTY

Like all of Kentucky's early settlers, the Lincoln family passed through the Cumberland Gap. Daniel Boone, who was both a friend and a relative, may have influenced Captain Abraham Lincoln's decision to leave Virginia for the "Eden of the west." The president's grandfather sold his holdings in Virginia and made his way to Kentucky about 1782, accompanied by his wife, Bathsheba, his three sons, Mordecai, Josiah and Thomas (the president's father) and his two daughters, Ann and Nancy.

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CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL PARK

Cumberland Gap National Park is the preserved site of the "gateway to the west." The gap is a natural break in the Appalachian Mountains that for centuries has allowed animals and, later, people to move east and west. Between 1775 and 1810 between 200,000 and 300,000 settlers, 5 to 10 percent of the U.S. population, passed through the gap on their way to what they hoped would be a better life.



Cumberland Gap in 1862.

Present interpretation: The National Park Service has both a museum/visitor center and interpreted walking trails. The interpretation covers six time periods: the Geological Formation of the gap, the Wilderness Road Period, Westward Expansion, the Civil War, and 20th Century Road Building. Wayside, at the Hensley Settlement, interprets the Lincoln family's journey through Cumberland Gap.

Potential as a visitor destination: The Cumberland Gap has excellent visitor potential as a visitor destination. Between 2001 and 2004, an average of 924,257 people visited the park annually. The park is planning to update its website to include information on the Lincoln family and the Cumberland Gap. That information will increase visitor knowledge of the role the gap played in Lincoln's history.

Accessibility: The Park Visitor Center is open daily 8AM to 6PM, from Memorial Day through Labor Day

and 8 AM to 5 PM from Labor Day to Memorial Day. The Visitor Center is closed on Christmas Day. Park grounds and picnic areas are open daily. The road leading to the Pinnacle Overlook may be closed periodically due to inclement weather.

Location: US 25E South, Middlesboro, Kentucky

Contact: Carol Borneman, Chief of Interpretation, 606-248-2817, carol_borneman@nps.gov



BOYLE COUNTY

The genealogy of life of Nancy Hanks and her life before her marriage to Thomas Lincoln has long been a bone of contention among historians. While many of the theories have points in common, there is no one series of events that all agree on. After years of research, a number of individuals have uncovered evidence that they believe proves that Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln, was the daughter of one Lucey Shipley Hanks. Lucey was one of at least four daughters of Robert Shipley of Virginia, all of whom eventually lived present-day Boyle or Washington Counties, Kentucky.

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LUCEY HANKS HOMESITE

Sometime before 1784 Lucey Shipley married James Hanks, the son of Joseph Hanks who later settled in Nelson County. A daughter, Nancy, was born February 5, 1784. Sometime after that but before 1777, James Hanks died. In 1777 or 1778, Lucey and Nancy came to Kentucky, to the home of Lucey's sister, Rachel, who lived with her husband, Richard Berry. The Berry's had 200 acres of land on Doctor's Fork in present day Mercer County (then Lincoln). Sometime later, Richard and Rachel moved to a 600-acre holding in the Beechfork section of Washington County.

A marriage bond recorded for Henry Sparrow and Lucey Hanks was guaranteed by John Berry and Robert Mitchell, Lucey's nephew and uncle, respectively. Four days later, on April 30, the Rev. John McGraw officiated at the couple's marriage. Lucey Hanks Sparrow and Henry Sparrow were married for 34 years.

When Lucey married Henry Sparrow she left Nancy with her sister and brother-in-law where she apparently lived until their death. Nancy seems to have remained in the area, possibly in the home of her cousin, Richard Berry, Jr. It was Richard, Jr. who signed the marriage bond for her marriage to Thomas Lincoln in 1806, appending "gardin" (guardian) below his name on the bond.

Lucey and Henry probably lived in a cabin on the south side of Scrubgrass Creek, more or less opposite the mouth of Day Branch Creek. Lucey died in 1825 and Henry in 1840. Their place of burial is unknown but it has been speculated that they were buried in the Scrubgrass Creek area because many of their descendents are buried there. Many believe they were buried in the Whitehouse Cemetery on Scrubgrass Creek. Unfortunately, within the recent memory of many individuals in the area, the cemetery was bulldozed and a house was built on the site.

Note: The history above has many points in common with that accepted by the State of Kentucky as interpreted at Lincoln Homestead State Park. It also agrees, in part, with information published by D. M. Hutton commemorating the dedication of the Lincoln Marriage Temple in 1931.

Present interpretation: An exhibit is set up in the family history room at the Forkland Community Center during the annual Heritage Festival & Review, which is held in the fall.

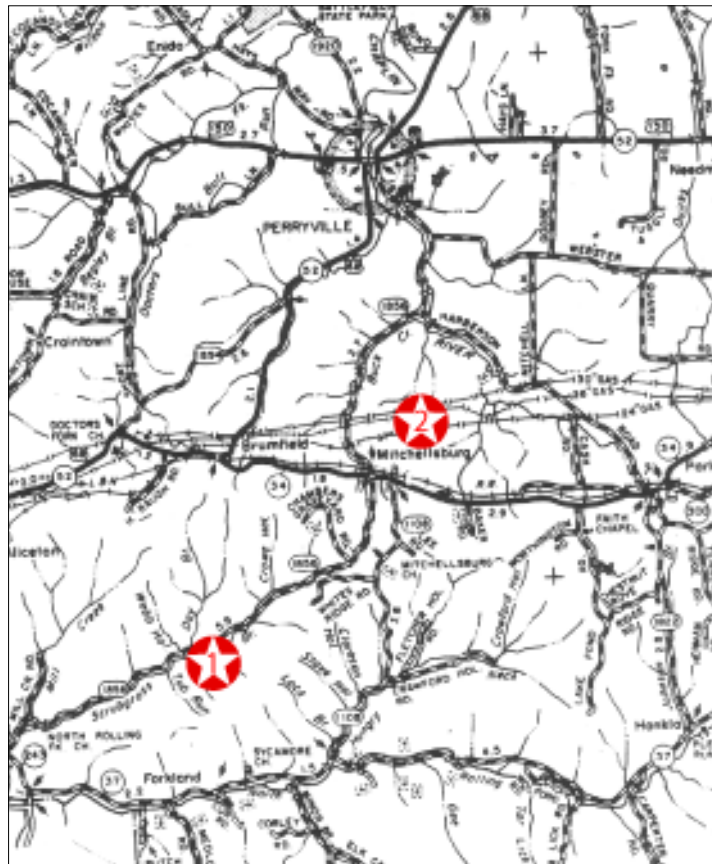
Potential as a visitor destination: The Lucey Hanks homesite is on private property. Lucey Hanks' connection with the Forkland area is interpreted during the two-day Heritage Festival, which attracts several thousand people each year. A kiosk or interpretive waysides could be installed on the Community Center

grounds to provide permanent interpretation.

Accessibility: The Lucey Hanks exhibit is accessible to the public two days each year. Ⓐ

Location: The exact location of the Lucey Hanks Sparrow Homesite is unknown. Some individuals place it, more or less, on the south side of KY 1856, 2.4 miles east of KY 243 and opposite the mouth of Day Branch [#1 on map]. Mr. James A. Peterson and Mrs. Lois Ison, in conducting a tax/title search and subsequent land survey, place the land on which Henry Sparrow paid taxes 3,000 feet northeast of the intersection KY 34 and KY 1856 at Mitchellburg [#2 on map]. The Forkland Community Center is on KY 37, Forkland.

Contact: Shirley Shepperson, 859-936-2061, no email



BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY

The Lincoln story in Breckinridge County has two aspects. The first involves the Lincolns journey from Kentucky to Indiana. Their path passed through Breckinridge County and they crossed the Ohio River on a ferry that ran from near Cloverport. The second concerns the career of Joseph Holt, a politician who served in the cabinets of both James Buchanan and Abraham Lincoln.

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JOSEPH HOLT HOUSE AND GRAVE

Joseph Holt was born in Breckinridge County in 1807. After graduating from Centre College in Danville he “read law” with Robert Wickliffe in Lexington. As a lawyer he gained a reputation as an eloquent speaker and made frequent appearances to speak on political issues. He gained national recognition in 1836 as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

In 1859 Holt came out of retirement to serve as Commissioner of Patents under President James Buchanan. Three years later he was appointed Postmaster General and in 1861 he was appointed Secretary of War.



The Joseph Holt House.

Holt was a strong Unionist and after Lincoln was elected he concentrated his efforts on convincing Kentucky to abandon its stance of neutrality and to support the Union. He had a pivotal role in Kentucky’s vote in September 1861.

Lincoln appointed Holt Judge Advocate General in September 1862. From this position, he ruled in the affirmative on the legality of recruiting and using African American soldiers, specifically former slaves, in the Union army. After the Lincoln’s assassination, Holt presided over the military commission that tried those individuals accused of conspiring with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.

The Joseph Holt House and gravesite are both listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The house is in fair condition and is clearly visible from the road. The grave is in a walled family plot adjacent to the house. Highway Marker 552: Joseph Holt is located just south of the cemetery, on the edge of KY.

Highway Marker 552: Joseph Holt

This is the birthplace and grave of Joseph Holt, 1807-96. Her served as Commissioner of Patents, Postmaster General, Sec. of War in Pres. Buchanan’s Administration, 1857-61. Lincoln named him Judge Advocate General of the Union army in 1862. Holt prosecuted conspirators in the assassination of Lincoln, 1865. He retired as Judge Advocate in 1875.



Joseph Holt's headstone.

Present interpretation: The highway marker near the cemetery is the only interpretation at this site.

Potential as a visitor destination: The site has a great deal of visitor potential. There have been numerous books on the Lincoln assassination. Both Lincoln and conspiracy buffs would find the Holt site interesting. Currently, the house is in private hands and the owner is not inclined to allow any changes to the status quo.



Accessibility: The house is private property but it can be view from the road or seen from the graveyard. The highway marker is located on the road right-of-way and visitors can stop and see the marker and the grave. They should be cautioned not to trespass.

Location: The Joseph Holt House and Grave are located on the west side of KY 144 6.2 miles north of US 60 and three-tenths of a mile north of Holt Road.

Contact: Sherry Stith, Breckinridge County Chamber of Commerce, 270-756-0268, chamber@breckinridgeco.com

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THE ROAD TO INDIANA

At this site, which is identified by Highway Marker 1003: Shelter for Lincolns, was a cabin in which the Lincoln family is thought to have stayed while on their way to Indiana. The length of time that they stayed at this site is subject to interpretation; various authors have given lengths of time ranging from one night to three weeks.

Highway Marker 1003: Shelter for the Lincolns

In the autumn of 1816 the family of Abraham Lincoln, then 7 years old, migrating to Indiana, rested and recuperated for about three weeks in a cabin that stood here. Lincoln route in Kentucky started near Hodgenville and went through Elizabethtown, Vine Grove, Harned, here to Cloverport, river ferry. Lincolns traveled by ox-cart.

Present interpretation: The highway marker is the only interpretation at this site.

Potential as a visitor destination: Limited as a single highway marker, however, the route the Lincoln family traveled in 1816 could be used as the framework for a multiple-stop interpreted tour. Such a tour might feature exhibits in participating communities examining the pioneer settlements the Lincolns passed through, the travails the Lincolns faced on their journey, the ferry landing and crossing, and a number of other topics related to their journey to Indiana.

Accessibility: The highway marker is impossible to access safely.

Location: The highway marker is located one-half mile south of the Breckinridge County Courthouse, on the east side of KY 108 just north of the lake and on the southern edge of the FFA Leadership Training Center.

Contact: Sherry Stith, Breckinridge County Chamber of Commerce, 270-756-0268, chamber@breckinridgeco.com



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THE OHIO RIVER CROSSING

The Lincolns crossed the Ohio River in the late fall or early winter of 1816. Further research indicates that they made the crossing at Thompson's Ferry in Hancock County. Highway Marker 73: Lincoln Family Trail in Cloverport commemorates that crossing.

Highway Marker 73: Lincoln Family Trail

Abraham Lincoln, then a lad of 7, with other members of the Thomas Lincoln family crossed the Ohio River on a log raft ferry near here in 1816. The Lincolns were moving to Indiana.

Present interpretation: The highway marker is the only interpretation at this site.

Potential as a visitor destination: Limited as a single highway marker, however, the route the Lincoln family traveled in 1816 could be used as the framework for a multiple-stop interpreted tour. Such a tour might feature exhibits in participating communities examining the pioneer settlements the Lincolns passed through, the travails the Lincolns faced on their journey, the ferry landing and crossing, and a number of other topics related to their journey to Indiana.

Accessibility: The highway marker is located in a park adjacent to the Ohio River in Cloverport. There is adequate parking.

Location: HM 73 is on the north side of Business 60 at Center Street, opposite the Cloverport Baptist Church and one block west of the business district.

Contact: Sherry Stith, Breckinridge County Chamber of Commerce, 270-756-0268, chamber@breckinridgeco.com



CASEY COUNTY

Abraham Lincoln, President Lincoln's paternal grandfather, first entered Kentucky in the 1770s. About 1781 he returned with his family and settled in what is now Casey County, Kentucky.

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SITE OF FIRST HOME OF LINCOLN FAMILY IN KENTUCKY

In 1781 or '82 Abraham Lincoln, his wife, Bathsheba, and their five children left Virginia. They traveled through Cumberland Gap to new land in Kentucky. Their first home was an existing cabin in Casey County near what is today Middleburg Cemetery. The Lincolns apparently lived in Casey County for just over two years before the family moved north to take up a claim filed in 1780 for land near Hughes Station in Jefferson County. Just before he left, Lincoln and his cousin, Hananiah, helped survey the property, which Abraham then transferred to Christopher Riffe.

A highway marker in the Middleburg Cemetery marks the site of the first home of the Lincoln family in Kentucky. This story, while somewhat obscure, seems to be fairly well documented.

Highway Marker 250: Dedicated Memory of General Christopher Riffe 1764-1850.

Site of His Cabin and Grave

Christopher Riffe accompanied Col. William Casey (Great-Grandfather of Mark Twain) to Kentucky in 1784. Riffe lived at Bryan's Station, Boonesborough, Logan's Station and Carpenter's Station. He bought 800 acres of land from the Grandfather of Abraham Lincoln. Riffe became the first white settler of Casey County in 1793. He was the first State Representative from Casey County, served seven terms. He fought in the Battle of Thames (in which Tecumseh was killed) in Kentucky Sixth Regiment. He was Lieutenant-General of the Kentucky State Militia.

Present interpretation: The highway marker at the cemetery is the only interpretation at this site.

Potential as a visitor destination: The visitor potential for this site is good. Few sites associated with the early life of the Lincoln family in Kentucky are known. A wayside interpretive marker is planned for the site and will be erected by the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association (SEKTDA) as part of the Cumberland Cultural Heritage Byway, which is part of the National Scenic Byway Program.

Accessibility: The cemetery is open to the public.

Location: Middleburg Cemetery, off of Lynn Street, Middleburg, Kentucky

Contact: Arlen Sanders, Economic Development of Liberty/Casey County, 606-787-9973, edaliberty@alltel.net



CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Records indicate that *a* Thomas Lincoln owned land and spent a considerable amount of time in Cumberland County. However, at least one individual has questioned whether the Thomas Lincoln who appears in the official records is the same Thomas Lincoln who was the father of the 16th president.

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THOMAS LINCOLN IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY

According to the information on the Highway Marker 885, Thomas Lincoln owned or at least made claims for land in the county in the first decade of the 19th century. The marker also credits Thomas Lincoln with holding a local office (constable) and an officer's commission in the county militia.

However, the interpretation of the county records as reported on the highway marker has been questioned. The highway marker cites specific dates when Thomas Lincoln was supposed to have been in Cumberland County. An article from the *Louisville Courier-Journal* written in 1928 does not dispute that *a* Thomas Lincoln was in Cumberland County but makes a very strong case against the Thomas Lincoln who was the father of the president being in Cumberland County during those years. The case is based on tax records from Washington and Hardin counties. More research should be done to determine the validity of this site.

Highway Marker 885: Lincoln's Father Here

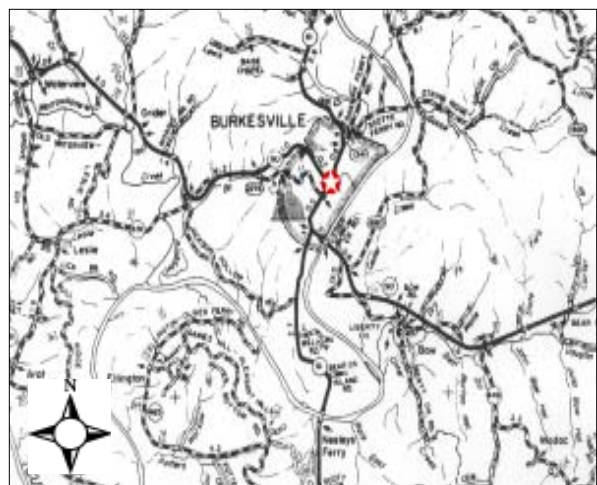
Thomas Lincoln made claim for land in Cumberland County in May, 1891. In Jan., 1802 and again in 1804 he was appointed constable. On Sept. 5, 1802, he was commissioned ensign in Cornstalk Militia of Cumberland County. Returned to Washington County. Married Nancy Hanks 1806. To union Pres. Lincoln was born. Thomas brought to Ky. from Virginia as child 1792.

Present Interpretation: The highway marker is the only interpretation at this site.

Potential as a visitor destination: Because the facts on the highway marker have been questioned, this sight should not be promoted as part of any Lincoln tour until more research can be undertaken.

Accessibility: The marker is accessible to the public at all times.

Location: The marker is on the southwest corner of the old Cumberland County Courthouse lawn at the intersection of KY 61 and KY 90 in Burkesville.



Contact: No contact has been identified for this site.

FAYETTE COUNTY

While Abraham Lincoln never lived in Fayette County, it is an important part of the Lincoln story. In the 19th century Lexington was known as the “Athens of the West.” It was a place whose residents valued education and a place that gave birth to great statesmen, including Henry Clay, the man Lincoln admired above all others. Lincoln’s wife, Mary Ann Todd, was a native of Lexington and she and Abraham Lincoln made a number of trips to Lexington to visit the Todd family.

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MARY TODD LINCOLN HOUSE

The Mary Todd Lincoln House is a brick two-story structure constructed in the late Georgian style. The house has fourteen rooms and its size and furnishings attest to the socioeconomic standing of the Todds, one of Lexington’s most influential families. The Todd family moved to this house in 1832, when Mary was 14. It was a year of great changes for Mary Ann Todd. Not only did the family leave the only house she had ever known, but she also entered boarding school and her oldest sister, Elizabeth, married and moved to Illinois. Mary lived in this house until she moved to Springfield, Illinois in 1839. It was in this house that Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln stayed when they visited Lexington after their marriage. A highway marker in front of the house identifies it as the home of Mary Todd Lincoln.



Mary Todd Lincoln House.

Highway Marker 11: Todd House

Home of Mary Todd Lincoln from 1832 to 1839.
To this house she brought Abraham Lincoln and their children.

Present interpretation: The Mary Todd Lincoln House is perhaps the best interpreted of any of the Lincoln sites in Kentucky. The house is appointed with period furnishings, some of which belonged to the Lincolns or the Todds. Unlike many house tours, however, the guided tour is designed and given in such a way that the personalities of the Mary Todd, Abraham Lincoln, and the Todd family are highlighted rather than the furnishings.

Potential as a visitor destination: This site is an important part of the Lincoln story in Kentucky. It is a must-see site and is well established as a visitor destination in the Bluegrass.

Accessibility: The house is open to the public Monday-Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM from March 15-November 30; the last tour begins at 3:15 PM. ♿ (first floor only).

Location: 578 West Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky.



Contact: Gwen Thompson, Executive Director, 859-233-9999, mtlhouse@alltel.ne

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SITE OF MARY TODD'S BIRTHPLACE

When Eliza Parker and Robert Todd were married in 1812 the bride's mother, Elizabeth Porter Parker, gave the couple the lower half of her substantial lot on Short Street. The Todd's new house, a brick, nine-room, 'L' shaped structure, was typical of the new brick houses being built in Lexington. Such homes came as a surprise to visitors, who expected to see wild animals and log huts in the frontier town.

Mary Ann Todd was born in the family home on December 13, 1818. She lived in the home on Short Street, next door to her grandmother, until 1832. That year the family moved the short distance to a larger house on West Main.

Albert Howard, a Lexington contractor and builder, razed Mary Todd's birthplace in the 1880s. Most of the building materials were salvaged, including the stairway, windows, doors, and the inside woodwork and floors. These materials were placed in a gatehouse Howard was constructing at the Cavalry Cemetery, opposite the Lexington Cemetery. Highway Marker 12 marks the site of Mary Todd's birthplace.

Highway Marker 12: Mary Todd Lincoln

On this site Mary Todd wife of Abraham Lincoln was born Dec. 13, 1818, and here spent her childhood.

Present interpretation: The marker is the only interpretation at the site.

Potential as a visitor destination: The site could be incorporated into a tour of Lincoln family sites in Lexington.

Accessibility: The marker is on the public right-of-way and can be read from the sidewalk.

Location: In front of 511 West Short Street, Lexington, Kentucky.



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PARKER HOUSE

Mary Ann Todd was truly the daughter of Lexington's first families. Her grandfather, Levi Todd, came to the Bluegrass in 1775 with his brothers, John and Robert. After the Revolutionary War they returned to the area and began to promote it to those back east. One of the first to accept the Todds' invitation was Robert Parker, a cousin through his maternal grandmother. Parker and his wife, Elizabeth Porter, arrived in Lexington in 1790.



Elizabeth Porter Parker House

Robert Parker was a miller, merchant, and like Levi Todd, a surveyor. As surveyors, Levi Todd and Robert Parker often had the choice of being paid with land or of receiving no payment at all. They took the land and soon amassed enormous holdings. Parker also benefited from a position as Clerk of the Lexington Trustees. As such he collected a fee every time a piece of property exchanged hands in Lexington. Robert Parker was a rich man when he died in 1800, six years after the birth of his daughter, Elizabeth.

Shortly after her husband's death, Elizabeth Parker built a substantial brick home on a lot in the center of Lexington that Robert Parker had originally surveyed for the trustees. In 1812 she gave the bottom half of the lot to her daughter and son-in-law, Eliza and Robert Todd. The "Widow Parker" as she preferred to be called, lived in the house on Short Street until her death in 1850.

Present interpretation: The house is not interpreted.

Potential as a visitor destination: This site could be combined with others in Lexington as part of a walking/driving tour.

Accessibility: The house is privately owned, it is not open to the public.

Location: 511 West Short Street, Lexington.

Contact: A contact for this site has not been identified.



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HELM PLACE

This property has a number of associations with the Lincolns. Levi Todd, Mary Todd's grandfather, established a station here after the revolutionary war. In 1912 Mary Todd Lincoln's half sister, Emilie Todd Helm, bought this house. For much of their lives Emilie and Mary Todd were extremely close. Emilie was one of Abraham Lincoln's favorite Todd relatives and she visited the Lincoln home frequently. Emilie married Benjamin Hardin Helm, whom Lincoln liked and respected a great deal. At the onset of the Civil War, Helm joined the Confederate army, rising to the rank of general. When General Helm was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga Lincoln was greatly saddened. Later during the war, Mary and Emilie, who remained a southern sympathizer, had a falling out that was never resolved.

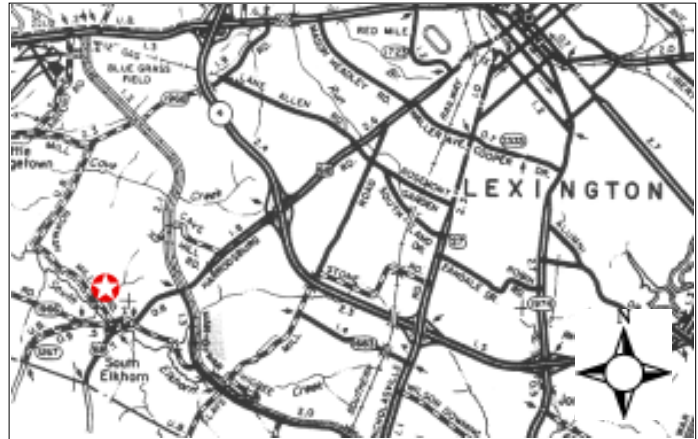
Highway Marker 1788: Cedar Hall/Helm Place

This antebellum Greek Revival home was part of Bowman estate. Col. Abraham Bowman commanded 8th Va. Regt, in Revolution. Behind house was Todd's Station, built in 1779 by Levi Todd, grandfather of Mary Todd Lincoln and Emilie Todd Helm. Mrs. Helm wife of CSA Gen. Ben H. Helm, bought house, in 1912. Later owned by Wm. H. Townsend, Lincoln authority. Listed on National Register, 1978.

Present interpretation: The highway marker is the only interpretation at this site.

Potential as a visitor destination: This site has very little potential as a visitor destination. The house is privately owned and is located at the end of a long private drive. It can not be seen from the road, which is very narrow. The lack of shoulders on this road makes reading the marker very dangerous.

Accessibility: The house is neither open nor accessible to the public.



Location: 2650 Bowman Mill Road, 2.1 miles south of CR 1968 (Parkers Mill Road) on Bowman Mill Road.

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SITE OF ELLERSLIE – THE LEVI TODD HOME

Levi Todd began building Ellerslie in the 1790s; it was the first brick house in Fayette County. The house, sited on thirty acres, was initially one room deep and two-stories tall. As skilled brick layers and carpenters became available, Todd added rooms and embellishments. When he was finished, Ellerslie was an impressive country home of more than twenty rooms. The exterior of the house, according to Mary Todd Lincoln biographer Jean H. Baker, was decorated by “that high Georgian feature of conspicuous consumption, a completely non-functional belt of bricks around the outside.”

When Levi Todd died in 1807 he owned 7,000 acres in Fayette and Franklin counties. His personal estate, excluding real estate, was worth more than \$6,000. He owned twenty-one slaves, nine horses, livestock, a carriage, silver, china, and a library of leather bound books. This was during a time when eighty-percent of households had no property or personal estate at all. After Levi Todd's death Ellerslie was sold. It was razed in 1947. Highway Marker 1001 marks the site.

Highway Marker 1001: Ellerslie

The home which stood on this site from 1787 to 1947 was built by Levi Todd (1756-1807), who named it for his ancestral village in Scotland. He was one of a party of hunters who named Lexington in 1775; first Fayette County clerk; aide to George Rogers Clark, 1779; Kaskaskia Expedition; Maj., Battle of Blue Licks; trustee, Transylvania; grandfather of Mary Todd Lincoln.

Present interpretation: The highway marker is the only interpretation at this site.

Potential as a visitor destination: This site has very little potential as a visitor destination. The marker is in or near the parking lot of a car dealership on Richmond Road, a very busy four-lane thoroughfare.

Accessibility: The marker is accessible only by parking at a convenience store adjacent to the car lot where the marker is located.

Location: 2440 Richmond Road in front of James Motor Company on the west side of Richmond Road at entrance ramp to New Circle Road.



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ASHLAND - THE HENRY CLAY ESTATE

Ashland was the home of Henry Clay, one of the most powerful 19th century politicians in the United States and one for whom Abraham Lincoln expressed the greatest admiration. Lincoln is said to have visited Clay at Ashland during his first trip to Lexington with Mary Todd in 1847. Clay was a frequent guest in the Robert Todd home and was a friend of the family and at least one historian believes that Lincoln met Clay at the Todd home on more than one occasion.

Whether Lincoln did or did not meet Clay in Lexington is relatively unimportant. Few would dispute that Henry Clay was an important figure in Abraham Lincoln's political life and the development of his ideals. Lincoln had admired Clay since he first began to read about him in the *Louisville Journal* in Gentryville. Lincoln's first presidential vote cast was for Henry Clay in 1832. Over the years his admiration for Clay and his ideals grew even greater. Lincoln never swerved in his loyalty to "Harry of the West" and his political principles. In August 1858 in a debate with Stephen A. Douglas Lincoln said that Henry Clay was his "beau

ideal of a statesman, the man for whom I fought all my humble life." He did not exaggerate.

Lincoln had fought hard to get Clay nominated for the presidency and did all he could, in vain, to get him elected. When Henry Clay died in 1852, Abraham Lincoln delivered his eulogy in the hall of the House of Representatives in Springfield.



Ashland.

Present interpretation: The interpretation at Ashland is first rate. On-site interpretation includes museum exhibits, a video presentation, and a guided tour.

Potential as a visitor destination: Ashland is one of the most- visited historic site in Lexington. It is also an important part of the Lincoln story. Clay was a major influence on Lincoln and those interested in Lincoln's political ideas and their development will want to see Ashland, the home of Lincoln's "beau ideal of a statesman."

Accessibility: One hour guided tours daily on the hour. Monday - Saturday, 10 AM- 4 PM, Sunday 1 PM- 4 PM. The last tour of the day begins at 4PM. Closed in January, holidays, and Mondays from November through March.

Location: 120 Sycamore Road, Lexington, Kentucky.



Contact: Eric Brooks, Curator, 859- 266-8581 ex. 16, ebrooks@henryclay.org

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LEXINGTON CEMETERY

The Lexington Cemetery was chartered in 1848 and dedicated in 1850. The 173-acre cemetery is an outstanding example of the rural cemetery type. It is the final resting place of many important figures in Lexington's and the nation's history, including Henry Clay and many members of the Todd family who were important figures in Abraham Lincoln's and Mary Todd Lincoln's life. The Lexington Cemetery is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Present Interpretation: The interpretation at the cemetery is minimal. It is an active cemetery and the rules insure that the families of those buried there are not disturbed by any inappropriate activity. A brochure directs visitors to the graves of some of Lexington's most well-known figures.

Potential as a visitor destination: This cemetery is already a visitor destination for those interested in the city's history. The beautiful grounds attract visitors as well and the cemetery has earned a national reputation as an arboretum. It might not be a site that every visitor will wish to see but it does offer the visitor the opportunity to visit the graves of some famous Lexingtonians with Lincoln connections.

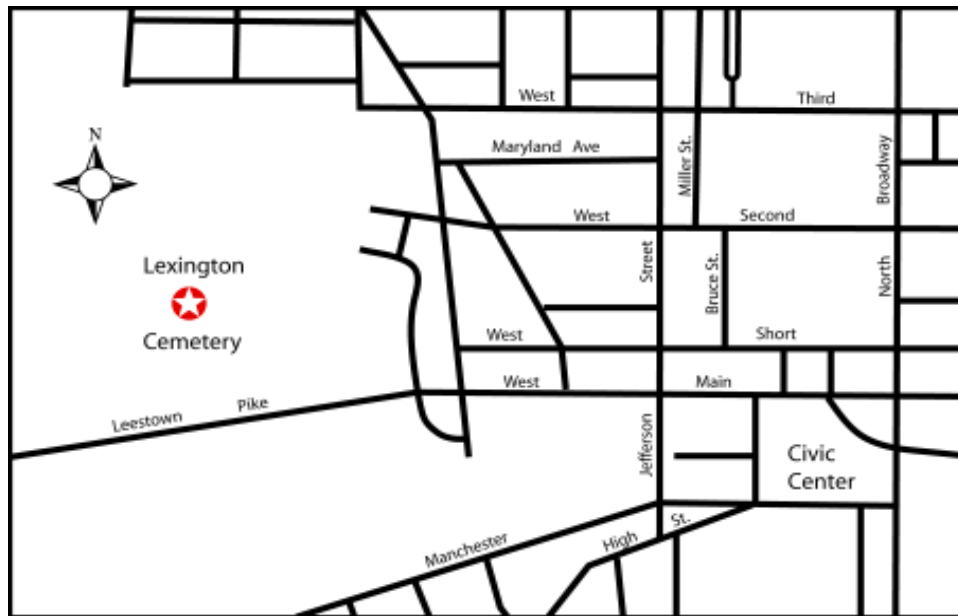
Accessibility: Visitors are welcome on the grounds daily from 8 AM to 5 PM.

Location: 833 West Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky



The Todd plot in the Lexington Cemetery.

Contact: 859-255-5522, info@lexcem.org



FRANKLIN COUNTY

Franklin County is the home of Frankfort, the Kentucky State capital. There is no documentary evidence that Abraham Lincoln visited the capital while he was in Kentucky but he and Mary Todd did spend time at Buena Vista, which was just outside of Frankfort on what is today US 421. In 1911 a bronze statue of Lincoln, commissioned by James Breckinridge Speed, was unveiled in the new capitol rotunda.

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STATUE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN BY ADOLPH. A. WEINMAN

James Breckinridge Speed, the nephew of Lincoln's close friend Joshua Speed, commissioned A. A. Weinman to create a statue for the rotunda of the new capitol building in Frankfort, which had been dedicated June 1, 1910.

The Lincoln statue was the first of five placed in the rotunda and the most prominent, being placed in the center. The larger-than-life bronze statue, which depicts Abraham Lincoln standing next to an Empire-style chair, was dedicated on November 8, 1911. The statue was accepted by Governor A. E. Wilson and approved by the Capitol Commission. President Howard Taft, the guest of honor, delivered a brief address. It was the first time since 1919 that a U.S. President had spent the day in Frankfort. At the dedication, a letter from Lincoln's son, Robert, was read in which he expressed his regret that illness prevented him from attending the ceremony. He closed, "I am writing also to Mr. Speed. How happy my father would have been if he could have foreknown this splendid act of the nephew of the absolutely dearest friend he ever had in the world, and of its reception by Kentucky."

The sculptor, Adolph A. Weinman, a student of Augustus St. Gaudens (who created the statue of Lincoln installed in Chicago), was a prominent sculptor noted for his works portraying Abraham Lincoln. Another Weinman statue of Lincoln had been unveiled to great acclaim in Hodgenville, Kentucky in 1909.



Abraham Lincoln by A. A. Weinman

Present interpretation: The interpretation of the statue is minimal. A self-guided tour brochure of the capitol mentions the statue and a plaque on the base of the statue identifies it as a gift of James Breckinridge Speed.

Potential as a visitor destination: The Lincoln statue has minimal visitor potential as a single site but might interest a visitor who has come to Frankfort for an event or exhibit in connection with the Lincoln Bicentennial.

Accessibility: The Capitol has guided tours daily on the half-hour Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The tours last approximately one hour. The capitol building is open Saturday 10 AM-2 PM and Sunday 1-4 PM for self-guided tours only. ♿

Location: 300 Capitol Avenue, Frankfort, Kentucky

Contact: Capitol Tour Guide, 502-564-3449



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SITE OF BUENA VISTA

Buena Vista, a large two-story frame structure located on a knoll approximately one-quarter mile from the highway, was Betsy Humphrey's country estate. After her marriage to Robert S. Todd, Buena Vista became a favorite summer retreat of the Todd family who, like all well-to-do families, escaped the heat and annual fevers that characterized Lexington in the summer months. Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln are known to have visited Buena Vista on a number of occasions. The house was razed sometime in the late 1940s or early 1950s. A highway marker identifies the site of the house.

Highway Marker 1999: Buena Vista

One-half mile south is the site of two-story frame house best known as the summer residence of Robert S. Todd (1791-1849), father of first lady Mary Todd Lincoln. Home of Mary Todd Lincoln. The large family took refuge here from the heat and cholera of summertime in Lexington. As a child, Mary Todd Lincoln spent many summers here.

Present interpretation: The highway marker is the only interpretation at the site.

Potential as a visitor destination: The Buena Vista marker has minimal value as a visitor destination. It and other sites, such as Mary Todd's birthplace and Ellerslie, might be featured in an exhibit of all of the lost Lincoln-related houses in Kentucky.



Accessibility: The marker is located at the entrance of a new subdivision. One can safely park on the side street and walk to the marker.

Location: Two miles east of US 60 on the south side of US 421 at Hogan Drive

Contact: Stuart W. Sanders, Civil War History and Heritage Tourism Specialist & Historical Highway Marker Program, 502-564-1792 ext. 4420, stuart.sanders@ky.gov

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KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Kentucky Historical Society is planning a number of events in conjunction with the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial:

- * Children and family activities, gallery talks, lectures, and museum theatre
- * Professional development for teachers
- * Distance learning programs
- * Lincoln curriculum materials
- * Grants to schools for classroom projects and travel to Lincoln sites and exhibits
- * Lincoln symposia, including race relations
- * Special issues of *The Register* and *Kentucky Ancestors*
- * Major exhibit in the Keeneland Gallery
- * Historymobile and Museums-To-Go traveling exhibits, and online exhibits

For more information contact: Stuart W. Sanders, Civil War History and Heritage Tourism Specialist & Historical Highway Marker Program, Kentucky Historical Society, 100 West Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601, 502-564-1792, ext. 4420, stuart.sanders@ky.gov

GREEN COUNTY

William Herndon, Abraham Lincoln's law partner, friend, and biographer, was born in Green County and his birthplace in Greensburg still stands. Lincoln's teacher, Mentor Graham, was also from Green County. Graham taught classes at Greensburg Academy, which Mary Owens, who was romantically linked to Lincoln, attended. Mary was the daughter of well-to-do Green County landowner Nathaniel Owens. Mary Owens and Lincoln had an on again, off again romance that ended in 1837.

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WILLIAM HERNDON HOUSE

William H. Herndon, who became Lincoln's law partner, was born in this house in 1818. The Federal-style two-story house was probably built in two stages, the earliest being the two-story three-bay south portion of the façade.

William Herndon's parents left Kentucky in 1820 for Illinois and settled in Springfield in 1823. Abraham Lincoln first made Herndon's acquaintance in the Springfield store owned by his close friend Joshua Speed, where Herndon was employed as a clerk. Later, Herndon read law and obtained a position in the law firm of Logan and Lincoln. In 1844, when Lincoln and Stephen Logan dissolved their partnership, Lincoln asked Herndon if he would like to go into partnership with him. A delighted Herndon readily agreed. Thus began a partnership that lasted until Lincoln's inauguration in 1861.



William Herndon House.

Outside of the law office, Herndon was a tireless promoter of Springfield, the "Athens of the Prairie." He was participated in every civic event and was a member of every civic institution. Herndon was the driving force behind the Springfield Library Association, which was the genesis of the Lincoln Library. He also served as Springfield's most aggressive reform mayor in the mid-1850s.

A Whig like Lincoln, Herndon was a leader in the populist element of the party, the "shrewd, wild boys about town." He devoured reading material on a wide variety of subjects and wanted to be part of a wider intellectual community. Herndon was enthusiastic about a great many causes and had a cheerful and optimistic outlook. Unlike Lincoln, however, he had no sense of humor. In dress he was something of a dandy, wearing patent leather shoes and kid gloves. In many ways, the partners could not have been more different. Lincoln, however, liked Herndon and respected the talents he brought to the firm. For his part, Herndon

was unswervingly devoted to Lincoln. After Lincoln's death he devoted himself to writing, with Jesse Weik, a biography of Abraham Lincoln. Highway Marker 846: Lincoln's Law Partner stands on the lawn of the old Green County Courthouse.

Highway Marker 846: Lincoln's Law Partner

Birthplace of William H. Herndon, 1818. Family moved to Illinois, 1820. An anti-slavery advocate and partner with Abraham Lincoln in practice of law, 1844-61. Herndon, Mayor of Springfield; State Bank Examiner. After Lincoln's death, devoted life to biography of his friend. Wrote "Herndon's Lincoln: The True Story of a Great Life." Died 1891, Springfield, Illinois.

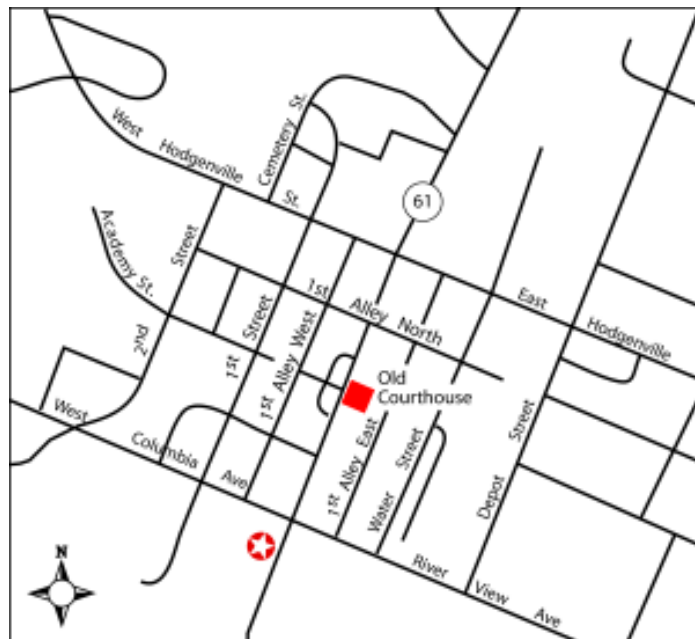
Present interpretation: The only interpretation at the Herndon House is a small metal plaque that states: Home of William H. Herndon – Lincoln's Law Partner. As noted above, the highway marker is one block north of the William Herndon House on the lawn of the old Green County Courthouse.

Potential as a visitor destination: This site has great potential as a visitor destination. It is located on Main Street in downtown Greensburg. The city is currently in the process of working to develop more heritage tourism. A group of private citizens recently purchased the house to preserve it.

Accessibility: The house is currently vacant. However, it can be seen from the road and from the sidewalk.

Location: The house is located at 203 S. Main Street, Greensburg, Kentucky, on the southwest corner of the intersection of South Main and West Columbia streets

Contact: Mike Mills, Greensburg Main Street manager, 270-932-4298
m.mills@greensburgonline.com



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GREENSBURG ACADEMY

This building once housed a private school taught by Mentor Graham, who is credited with providing Abraham Lincoln with much of his formal adult education. The first stage of the building was constructed between 1815 and 1818. Graham was the schoolmaster at Greensburg Academy from 1818 until he left Greensburg in 1823.



Greensburg Academy.

The earliest part of the Greensburg Academy building consists of two main floors and a loft. The main front has three bays with a centered door. The brickwork is Flemish bond on the facade and American bond on the other three faces. The brick end addition was built in the late 1830's and is also Flemish bond. The inside has two pilaster Federal mantels. There is an extant springhouse on the grounds.

Present interpretation: There is no interpretation at this site.

Potential as a visitor destination: This site has great potential as a visitor destination. It is located near downtown Greensburg, within easy walking distance of the Court Square. There is a large parking lot just north of the house where an interpretive wayside or kiosk could be placed. Visitors could then climb the stairs to view the building.

Accessibility: The house is currently vacant. In the summer months the foliage prevents the house from being seen from the street.

Location: The house is located at 101 Second Street, Greensburg, Kentucky, on a hill overlooking Second Street between West Court and Academy streets.

Contact: Mike Mills, Greensburg Main Street manager, 270-932-4298
m.mills@greensburgonline.com



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MENTOR GRAHAM

Mentor Graham was born in Green County in 1800. He attended a one-room “blab” school until 1812, when his uncle, Nathaniel Owens, established Brush Creek Academy. Graham enrolled in his uncle’s Academy, studying algebra, astronomy, and surveying with his uncle and English, Greek, and Latin with Mr. McElroy. In 1818 he was hired as headmaster of the newly established Greensburg Academy. Among his students there was Mary Owens, the vivacious daughter of Nathaniel Owens and Mentor Graham’s first cousin. Graham lost his life savings, about \$400, when the Greensburg Bank failed. Soon afterward, Graham, his wife, and child moved to Illinois, following in the footsteps of a number of his Green County friends. Mentor Graham settled in the Sangamon River country, and resumed his teaching career. Three years later, New Salem was established nearby and in time Graham began to teach students in that community, among them Abraham Lincoln. Mentor Graham has been given credit for whatever higher education the future president received. Highway Marker 719: Lincoln’s Mentor commemorates Mentor Graham.

Highway Marker 719: Lincoln’s Mentor

Three miles west, birthplace of Mentor Graham, 1800-86, “The Man Who Taught Lincoln.” Sixty years a teacher. Green County 1818-26. After Illinois voted down slavery, moved to New Salem, 1826. There, from 17831-37, as tutor and friend, he had incalculable influence on Abraham Lincoln, his public life. Graham died at 86, South Dakota. Reburied at New Salem, Ill., 1933.

Present Interpretation: The highway marker is the only interpretation at this site.

Potential as a visitor destination: This site has limited potential. The marker is not at the site of Graham’s birthplace, which is no longer extant. Because the exact location of the birthplace has not been determined it is not known if access to the site is possible. It might be better to interpret Graham at or near Greensburg Academy.

Accessibility: The marker is at an intersection of two county roads. There is sufficient room to pull over and read the text.

Location: The highway marker is located eight miles north of Greensburg on the northwest corner of the intersection of KY 61 and KY 569 in the community of Bloyds Crossing. The marker is positioned in such a way that it is difficult to see when approaching from Greensburg.

Contact: Mike Mills, Greensburg Main Street manager, 270-932-4298
m.mills@greensburgonline.com

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MARY OWENS

There are no extant sites associated with Mary Owens other than Greensburg Academy, where she was student. However, the story of her relationship with Abraham Lincoln is one which many people would find interesting. It also illustrates the many ties that existed between Lincoln and Kentucky. Kentucky residents in general shared many ties to both Indiana and Illinois, a fact that becomes obvious when investigating Lincoln's personal and professional relationships. Any museum exhibit installed in Greensburg should include the Mary Owens story.

Present interpretation: The Greenburg-Green County Chamber of Commerce staged a play entitled "Lincoln's Other Mary" in the fall of 2005. The play might be repeated at intervals during the Bicentennial. Any museum exhibit installed in Greensburg should include the Mary Owens story.

Potential as a visitor destination: There is no physical site associated with Mary Owens. Events such as the play "Lincoln's Other Mary" have the potential to attract a wide regional audience.

Accessibility: Not applicable

Location: Not applicable

Contact: Mike Mills, Greensburg Main Street manager, 270-932-4298
m.mills@greensburgonline.com

HANCOCK COUNTY

Hancock County has a two sites that are related to both the Lincoln family and Abraham Lincoln. Some biographers have identified Thompson Ferry as the site where Thomas Lincoln and his family crossed the Ohio River from Kentucky into Indiana. The Samuel Pate House, which is just west of Thompson Ferry, was the site of the Commonwealth of Kentucky vs. Abraham Lincoln in which a local ferry operator accused Lincoln of operating a ferry without a license. Lincoln, acting as his own counsel, was acquitted of the charges. It has been suggested that this incident helped propel Lincoln into a legal career.

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SAMUEL PATE HOUSE

This seven-room log house, built in 1822 by Samuel Pate, was the site of Abraham Lincoln's first law case. Pate, who was the justice of the peace or magistrate for this section of Hancock County, served as judge at the trial. Lincoln, who was 18 years old at the time, was accused of infringing on the ferry franchise of John and Lin Dill (operating a ferry without a license).

Lincoln had taken two men from the Indiana side of the river to a steamboat waiting in mid-stream. The two men paid Lincoln \$1.00 for his service. The payment was the crux of the Dill's argument. The Kentucky law stated: "If any person whosoever shall for reward, set any person over any river or creek, whereupon public ferries are appointed, he or she so offending shall forfeit and pay five pounds for every such offense."



Samuel Pate House.

The Dills testified that Lincoln had taken passengers out to a steamboat, received payment, and returned to the Indiana shore. Lincoln admitted that he had carried passengers to the boat. However, he replied that he had not intended to encroach on the business of any ferry and that at the time of his offense the ferry was on the other side of the river. The law stated that "... any person whosoever shall for reward, set any person over any river or creek ..." Lincoln had not, in fact, crossed the river and therefore technically had not violated the law. Pate ruled in Lincoln's favor. The Dills left in a huff and Pate took Lincoln aside, telling him that if a man was going to operate a business he should be familiar with the laws governing that business. According to one source, Lincoln asked many questions about the law and court procedures and Pate invited Lincoln to come and observe on law days. Lincoln is said to have sat in Pate's house on more than one court day and to have read from his library. A highway marker stands at the entrance to the drive leading to the Pate House.

Highway Marker 667: Lincoln Acquitted

Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of United States, won his first law case here 1827. Charged by the Commonwealth of Kentucky with operating a ferry without a license; Lincoln pleaded his own case in trial at the home of presiding Justice of the Peace Samuel Pate. Pate encouraged Lincoln to study law and loaned him books. Lincoln often visited here on "law days."

Reverse: Thompson Ferry Road

One of Hancock County's first roads, built in 1815, ran from Thompson Ferry Landing toward Hardinsburg in Breckinridge County. The land on this site later bought by George Emmick, who built on the riverfront here one of the oldest houses in Hancock County in 1854.

Present interpretation: The highway marker is the only interpretation at this site.

Potential as a visitor destination: This site has some potential of becoming a visitor destination. The Emmick house, built in 1854, is still standing and appears to be in excellent condition. The current owner rents the house to visitors.

Accessibility: The marker is located on the road right-of-way. There is sufficient room to pull off of the road, which is lightly traveled, to read the marker, although such an action can not be recommended.

Location: The marker is located 3.9 miles east of Lewisport between Cooper Road and KY 1605 at the end of the lane leading to the site of the landing and the George Emmick House. The Emmick house is located on the banks of the Ohio River less than a half-mile northwest of the marker.

Contact: Pam Bolen, Hancock County Tourism Commission, Lewisport, 270-314-5688
pcmgee@oak.edu



HARDIN COUNTY

The Lincoln family has a long history in Hardin County. Bathsheba Lincoln, Captain Abraham Lincoln's widow, spent the last thirty years of her life living with her youngest child, Nancy, in the Mill Creek area. She and Nancy Lincoln Brumfield are buried in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, located on the Fort Knox Military Reservation.

Thomas Lincoln lived in or near Elizabethtown from about 1796 to 1808. A solid citizen, he served as a policeman, helped lay out and build roads, and served in the militia. His services as a carpenter and cabinet-maker were always in demand. Lincoln helped construct both industrial buildings, such as Haycraft's Mill, and homes such as the Hardin Thomas House, now known as the Lincoln Heritage House. After he married Nancy Hanks in 1806 the couple may have lived on the Mill Creek farm for as long as a year before moving to Elizabethtown, where Thomas built a house. Their first child, Sarah, was born in Elizabethtown in 1808. Both the Sinking Spring and Knob Creek farms were in Hardin County when the Lincolns lived there, LaRue County had yet to be formed.

The Lincoln family left Kentucky in 1816. Thomas Lincoln returned to Elizabethtown one more time, after the death of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, to court and marry Sarah Bush Johnston in December 1819.

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LINCOLN HERITAGE HOUSE

In 1789 Hardin Thomas built a small one-story cabin on the "shun pike" east of the turnpike. In the next ten years six children were born to Thomas and his wife, Mahetabel, called Hetty. Between 1800 and 1805 the couple enlarged their home, adding a second story to the existing cabin and building a larger two-story cabin immediately adjacent, with only the width of the large chimney separating the two structures. Thomas Lincoln was hired to do the "joiners" work, that is the finish work on the doors, windows, cabinets and trim. He also made the mantle and some basic furniture for the new house. When the two cabins were ready they were joined by a passage and covered with weather-board, giving the appearance of one large house.



Lincoln Heritage House.

Over the years the Thomas farm passed through many hands but the cabins remained standing and little changed. The City of Elizabethtown purchased the farm to establish the Freeman Lake Watershed about 1970. Restoration on the house was completed November 1, 1972. Both cabins are constructed of hand-hewn logs, most of which are original, and roofed with wood shakes. A fieldstone chimney is located at opposite ends of each cabin. The stairways leading to the upper floors are original. Chinked hewn logs form

the interior walls. Poplar rafters support the second floor, and the floor is made of wide poplar floor boards, both original. The original wood trim has the simple line bead which is typical of other finishing work attributed to Thomas Lincoln.

Highway Marker 1468: Lincoln Heritage House

Pioneer homes of Hardin Thomas family. One-room log cabin built ca. 1789. Thomas Lincoln, father of 16th President, did the carpentry and cabinet work on the four-room log structure built ca. 1805. For several years Thomas Lincoln was a resident of Hardin County which then included other present-day counties. Restoration made possible by Hardin County Historical Society.

Present interpretation: Highway Marker 1468: Lincoln Heritage House is the only on-site interpretation.

Potential as a visitor destination: If the site were open on a regular schedule it would be an attractive visitor destination. Passive interpretation, such as a kiosk or a series of waysides, would make the site of interest even when the structure is not open.

Accessibility: The site is advertised as being open to the public Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM from June 1 to October 1. However, the several times we have been to the site it has not been open. The docents are volunteers and the schedule is very erratic. In fact, the site is rarely open.

Location: At the end of Freeman Lake Road, off of US 31W in Freeman Lake Park.

Contact: Tim Asher, 270-763-8067, tasher@kvnet.org



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SARAH BUSH JOHNSTON LINCOLN MEMORIAL CABIN

In 1818 young widow Sarah Bush Johnston purchased a small log cabin from Samuel Haycraft, Sr. Sarah and her three young children lived in the 14 by 14 foot cabin, which was located about a block from the public square on North Main Street, until her marriage to Thomas Lincoln in December of 1819. Sarah and her three children left Kentucky immediately after the marriage, accompanying Thomas Lincoln to his home in Indiana where his two children, Abraham and Sarah, were being cared for by a cousin.

The Sarah Bush Johnston Memorial Cabin was built in 1992 during Kentucky's Bicentennial from handhewn logs 122 years old. It is a close replica of the cabin Sarah Bush Johnston purchased from Mr. Haycraft and is typical of cabins in Kentucky in the early 1800s.

Present interpretation: An incised wood plaque attached to the cabin reads:

ANOTHER FOOTPRINT ALONG THE LINCOLN TRAIL
A MEMORIAL TO THE
MOST FAMOUS STEP-MOTHER IN
AMERICAN HISTORY
THIS CABIN IS A CLOSE REPLICA OF
ONE LIVED IN BY LOCAL WOMAN

SARAH BUSH JOHNSTON
AND HER THREE CHILDREN IN
THE EARLY 1800'S
SARAH MARRIED THOMAS LINCOLN ON
DEC. 2, 1819, IN ELIZABETHTOWN,
THUS UNITING THE BUSH AND LINCOLN FAMILIES

WE BELIEVE HER LOVE
AND GOOD CHARACTER FAVORABLY
INFLUENCED YOUNG ABRAHAM LINCOLN
WHO WAS DESTINED TO BECOME
SIXTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



Sarah Bush Johnson Lincoln Memorial Cabin

A. LANE

Potential as a visitor destination: If the site were open on a regular schedule it would be an attractive visitor destination. Passive interpretation, such as a kiosk or a series of waysides, would make the site of interest even when the structure is not open.

Accessibility: The site is advertised as being open to the public daily/afternoons in the summer months. However, the several times we have been to the site it has not been often. The docents are volunteers and that the schedule is very erratic. In fact, the site is rarely open.

Location: About 500 feet north of the Lincoln Heritage House, which is at the end of Freeman Lake Road, off of US 31W in Freeman Lake Park.

Contact: Tim Asher, 270-763-8067, tasher@kvnet.org



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GRAVE OF BATHSHEBA LINCOLN

Information concerning President Abraham Lincoln's grandparents on both sides is incomplete, especially the information on his grandmothers, Bathsheba Lincoln and Lucy Hanks. A marriage was recorded for the president's paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, in 1770 but the name of the bride was not recorded. Records do indicate that by 1780 he was married to Bathsheba (sometimes spelled Bersheba) Herring. Bathsheba may have been the woman he married in 1770 or she may have been Abraham's second wife. In any case, the couple had five children, Mordecai, Josiah, Mary, Thomas, and Nancy.

After Abraham's death in May 1786 Bathsheba Lincoln moved the family to Washington County, where she remained until about 1801. By then all of her children except Thomas, the youngest boy, were married. Bathsheba went to live with her youngest daughter, Nancy, who had married William Brumfield and lived in the Mill Creek area of Hardin County. Bathsheba remained on the Mill Creek farm until her death about 1836, which tradition holds was in her 110th year. She was buried in the cemetery at Mill Creek, now Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, located on Fort Knox Military Reservation.

Bathsheba Lincoln's grave is marked by a large stone that was given by the people of Illinois to the people of Kentucky. The marker has a small stone set in the base which came from President Abraham Lincoln's tomb in Springfield, Illinois. The stone was dedicated in May 1960 in a ceremony attended by Illinois Governor William Grant Stratton, Kentucky Governor Bert T. Combs, and US Army officials.

Present interpretation: There is no on-site interpretation of which we are aware.

Potential as a visitor destination: Almost none. There is a remote possibility that the Army would be willing to open the cemetery for a special ceremony. Any plans would, of course, be subject to the state of alert at the time and/or other security issues.

Accessibility: Lincoln Memorial Cemetery is open to the public on Memorial Day, national security permitting. The cemetery is now within the boundaries of an active firing range on Fort Knox Military Reservation. It is protected by the US Army.

Location: The cemetery is located on an unnamed road one-quarter mile south of Brumfield Range Road and six-tenths mile west of Main Range Road. It is clearly marked on the Vine Grove USGS topographic quadrangle and on most county maps.

Contact: PAO (Public Affairs Officer), Bldg. 474, Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, 502-624-1447.



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ZACHARIAH RINEY HOUSE

Zachariah Riney was born in Maryland in 1763. The family came to Kentucky sometime before 1795. Like many other Catholic families, Riney's settled in the Bardstown area – sometimes referred to as “the Holy Land.” In 1815 Riney, then a schoolteacher by profession, taught a school term of three months during the summer at the little log school about two miles north of the Lincoln family's Knob Creek home. It was a subscription school, meaning that the parents of the students each contributed a sum of money to pay the teacher. Abraham, then 6, and Sarah, 7, attended the “blab school” taught by Riney.

In 1824 Riney married Sarah Bickett. About 1830, Zachariah Riney and his wife moved to Hardin County, about six miles north of Elizabethtown. Riney built a two-story log house, which was later enlarged and covered in clapboard. At some point in his life, Riney made a sizeable donation of land to the Trappist Abbey at Gethsemane, in Nelson County. Some time in the 1850s he left his wife and went to live at Gethsemane where his grandson, Brother Benedict (born William) was a monk. He remained there the rest



Zachariah Riney House

Zachariah moved to Rineyville site, 1830, built this double log house, later enlarged and clapboarded. Lived here nearly 25 years with his son, Sylvester. His grandson, Mancil G. was first postmaster.

of his life. Zachariah Riney died in 1859 and was buried at Gethsemane.

The Zachariah Riney house is listed in the National Register of Historic places. Highway Marker 1711: Rineyville Named is located on KY 1600 in front of the house.

Highway Marker 1711: Rineyville Named
Sylvester Riney gave land for Illinois Central R. R., 1784, and town named for family. Zachariah, his father, was Abraham Lincoln's first teacher while living on Rolling Fork.

Present Interpretation: Highway Marker 1711: Rineyville Named is the only on-site interpretation

Potential as a visitor destination: Limited. The house is privately owned and not open to the public. It could be featured in a driving tour; the house it is set back from the road but is clearly visible.



Accessibility: The house is private property and not open to the public

Location: On the south side of KY 1600 at its intersection with KY 220 on the south side of Rineyville.

Contact: Tim Asher, 270-763-8067, tasher@kvnet.org

HELM PLACE AND HELM CEMETERY.

HELM PLACE

Between 1780 and 1912 five generations of the Helm family lived on the land where the Helm House is located. Thomas Helm erected a fort on this hill in 1779. In later years he built a log house outside the old fort, which sheltered several generations of the Helm family. The current house was constructed over a period of eight years, between 1832 and 1840. The site's association with Abraham Lincoln lies with Benjamin Hardin Helm, the son of John LaRue Helm. John La Rue Helm was a Whig who was bitterly opposed to Abraham Lincoln. He openly condemned the Civil War but equally condemned secession. Because of his outspoken opinions he was classified as a "Rebel" and suffered harassment throughout the war.



Helm Place.

Benjamin Hardin Helm attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He later served on the Texas frontier where illness forced him to return to Kentucky. In 1852 Helm resigned his commission to study law at his father's request. He practiced law with his father until 1856 when he served a term in the Kentucky House of Representatives. On March 20, 1856 he married Emilie Todd, the younger half-sister of Mary Todd Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln was extremely fond of Emilie and admired Benjamin Helm. In April 1861 Lincoln personally offered Helm the position of paymaster of the Union Army with the rank of major. Helm's sympathies, however, were with the Confederacy and he refused the commission. Helm began recruiting for the Confederate army and in September was appointed colonel of the 1st Regiment of Kentucky Confederate Cavalry. In 1862, after the Battle of Shiloh, he was promoted to brigadier general. Helm was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863 while commanding the famous Orphan Brigade. When he learned of Helm's death Lincoln wrote to his good friend Judge David Davis in Illinois, "I feel as David did of old when he was told of the death of Absalom. 'Would to God that I had died for thee! Oh Absalom, my son, my son.'" General Benjamin Hardin Helm was buried in Citizens' Graveyard in Atlanta. On September 9, 1884, he was reinterred in Helm Cemetery.

HELM CEMETERY

The Helm family cemetery, now an isolated remnant in a sea of development, was once on an isolated part of the vast Helm estate. The small cemetery is surrounded by a low stone wall. From the top of the hill on which the cemetery sits one has a clear view of Helm Place several hundred yards to the north. In this small cemetery are buried a number of members of the Helm family, including John LaRue Helm, Sr., twice governor of Kentucky, and his son, Confederate General Ben Hardin Helm.

Highway Marker 833: Helm Cemetery

This pioneer cemetery includes the graves of John LaRue Helm, who served two incomplete terms as Governor of Kentucky, and his son, Confederate Gen. Ben Hardin Helm, who fell at battle of



Helm Family Cemetery.

Chickamauga, September 20, 1863. Gen. Helm and Abraham Lincoln married half sisters, Emilie and Mary Todd, the daughters of Robert S. Todd of Lexington, Kentucky.

Present interpretation: Helm House has no on-site interpretation. The only interpretation for the Helm Cemetery is Highway Marker 833: Helm Cemetery, above.

Potential as a visitor destination: These two sites could be combined with others to create a driving tour of Lincoln-related sites in Elizabethtown and Hardin County.

Accessibility: The house now serves as a corporate office. It is not open to the public as a historic site. The cemetery is unlocked and open to the public. Parking is available at the 790 Shopping Center adjacent to the cemetery grounds

Location: Helm House is located on the north side of Deicks Drive, behind Governors Manor Shopping Center [#1 on map]. Helm Cemetery is located on the south side of Deicks Drive behind Wendy's Restaurant [#2 on map]. Both are on the east side of US 31W about 1 mile north of the courthouse and just north of the intersection of US 31W and KY 1357.

Contact: Tim Asher, 270-763-8067, tasher@kvnet.org



HARDIN COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

Hardin County History Museum opened in the fall of 2003. Its mission to tell the story of Hardin County from its early Indian inhabitants to modern times. Permanent and rotating exhibits, speakers, tours and promotions are used to promote knowledge of and appreciation for the county's heritage. The museum features several exhibits devoted to the history of the Lincoln family in Hardin County, including a copy of the marriage bond for Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Johnston. The Museum building, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, was constructed in 1931 as the Elizabethtown Post Office. It later housed the Hardin County Library.

Present interpretation: The museum has several exhibits devoted to the Lincoln family and is planning to participate in the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial. Special exhibits, events, and speakers are being considered.

Potential as a visitor destination: Excellent, the museum is already a visitor destination. It is located in the Downtown Historic District and is in close proximity to a number of Lincoln-related points of interest.

Accessibility: The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM. There is no admission charge. ♿

Location: 201 West Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown, Kentucky, 42701.

Contact: Tim Asher, 270-763-8067, tasher@kvnet.org



SARAH BUSH JOHNSTON-THOMAS LINCOLN MARRIAGE SITE

On this site stood a large log house where Sarah Bush Johnson and Thomas Lincoln were married on December 2, 1819. The house was razed about 1920.

Present interpretation: The site is Stop #1 on the Self-Guided Historic Downtown Walking Tour. On February 12, 1927 the Elizabethtown Woman's Club placed this commemorative plaque on the building that replaced the original log building:

IN A HOUSE WHICH STOOD UPON THIS LOT WERE
MARRIED ON DECEMBER 2, 1819 THOMAS LINCOLN
THE FATHER AND SARAH BUSH JOHNSTON THE FOSTER
MOTHER OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Potential as a visitor destination: Limited as a single site but it could be combined with other sites to create a Lincoln in Hardin County tour.

Accessibility: Publicly accessible at all times, ♿

Location: 117 North Main Street, on the east side of Main, one-half block from the Hardin County Courthouse

Contact: Tim Asher, 270-763-8067, tasher@kvnet.org



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HARDIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE COMMEMORATIVE MARKER

Affixed to a boulder on the north lawn of the Hardin County Courthouse is a plaque commemorating the Lincoln family in Hardin County:

“Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks
Lincoln
the parents of
Abraham Lincoln,

Lived in Elizabethtown from the time of their marriage, June 12, 1806, until their removal, in the fall of 1808, to the farm near Hodgenville, where Abraham Lincoln was born. Sarah, their first child, was born here. A year after the death of Nancy Hanks Lincoln in Indiana, Thomas Lincoln returned and on December 2, 1819, married here Mrs. Sally Bush Johnston, a resident of Elizabethtown, who became the beloved foster mother of Abraham Lincoln.”

Present interpretation: Not applicable

Potential as a visitor destination: Limited

Accessibility: Publicly accessible at all times. ♿

Location: Hardin County Courthouse, Public Square, Elizabethtown

Contact: Tim Asher, 270-763-8067, tasher@kvnet.org



BROWN-PUSEY HOUSE

In the collection of the Brown-Pusey House is a finely crafted upright corner cabinet attributed to Thomas Lincoln. The provenance of the cabinet, which features elaborate wood inlays, is well documented.

This two-story brick house was built in 1825 by John Y. Hill for his bride, Rebecca D. Stone as a residence. Sometime later the Hills turned the house into a hotel which soon became known for its hospitality, quality, and Rebecca's cooking. When Hill died in 1855, Rebecca, or "Aunt Beck" as she was known, ran the hotel on her own. In 1923 the house was restored and presented to the community by Dr. William Brown and Dr. Alfred Brown-Pusey, great-nephews of "Aunt Beck." The Brown-Pusey House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Pusey Room Museum contains professional memorabilia and family mementos of Dr. William Allen Pusey. Items in the general collection include artifacts associated with General Benjamin Hardin Helm and the cabinet crafted by Thomas Lincoln. An excellent history and genealogy library is on-site.



Brown-Pusey House.

Present interpretation: Guided tours; the site is Stop #5 on the Self-Guided Historic Downtown Walking Tour. Signs identify the more significant items in the house.

Potential as a visitor destination: The Brown-Pusey House is a visitor destination in its own right.

Location: 128 North Main Street, one block north of the Hardin County Courthouse.

Accessibility: The Brown-Pusey House is open to the public Monday through Saturday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, unless the house has been rented for a private event. There is no admission charge. ♿

Contact: Tim Asher, 270-763-8067, tasher@kvnet.org

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LINCOLN-HAYCRAFT MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Near this bridge, which was erected in 1936, was a mill and mill race owned by Samuel Haycraft, Sr. One of the individuals hired by Haycraft to assist in the construction of the mill in 1796 or 1797 was Thomas Lincoln. A commemorative plaque was placed on the northwest corner of the bridge by the Hardin County Historical Society in 1964:

Lincoln-Haycraft Memorial Bridge

This bridge spanning Severn's Valley Creek marks the location of a mill and mill race which was constructed by Samuel Haycraft, senior in the year 1797.

Thomas Lincoln, the father of the 16th president of the United States, was employed to help in the construction of the mill, and it was here that he received his first important remunerative employment.

Abraham Lincoln in the year 1816, when but seven years of age, migrated with his family westward, and it was at this point that the Lincolns crossed Severn's Valley Creek and entered Elizabethtown, Kentucky enroute to the state of Indiana.

Hardin County Historical Society 1964

At the south end of the bridge, at the entrance to the Haycraft Park and Trail on the east side of US 31W, is Highway Marker 932: Lincoln-Haycraft Memorial Bridge, 1936:

Here along Severn's Valley Creek Samuel Haycraft, Sr. built mill, raceway in 1796. Thomas Lincoln, father of Pres. Lincoln, employed in building it, received his first monetary wages when about 21 years of age. Abraham Lincoln, age 7, with his family on way to Indiana in 1816, crossed this creek about here and went through Elizabethtown.

Present interpretation: The commemorative plaque installed by the Hardin County Historical Society and Highway Marker 932: Lincoln-Haycraft Memorial Bridge, 1936.

Potential as a visitor destination: Limited as a single site but it could be combined with other sites to create a Lincoln in Hardin County tour.

Accessibility: A parking area for the Haycraft Park and Trail is located on the east side of US 31W immediately north of the railroad crossing.

Location: The bridge is on US 31W at Valley Creek, immediately north of the railroad.

Contact: Tim Asher, 270-763-8067, tasher@kvnet.org

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FROM KNOB CREEK TO THOMPSON'S LANDING:
THE ROUTE OF THE LINCOLNS IN 1816

In 1816 the Lincoln family left the Knob Creek farm and began the long journey to Indiana. That journey took them north along the well-traveled road to Elizabethtown and then north for about seven miles. They then turned to the east, passing through Vine Grove. The Lincolns continued northeast to another well traveled road, which followed the same route, generally, as today's US 60. They passed through the present-day communities of Garfield, Harned, Hardinsburg, Cloverport, and Hawesville, continuing on to Thompson's Ferry, which was located opposite present-day Troy, Indiana.

Highway Marker 858: Route of Lincolns

In the autumn of 1816, Abraham Lincoln's family traveled this old pioneer trail through Vine Grove, established in 1802, when migrating from Knob Hill farm, Larue County, Kentucky, to Spencer County, Indiana.

Present interpretation: Highway Marker 858: Route of Lincolns, above.

Potential as a visitor destination: Limited as a single highway marker, however, the route the Lincoln family traveled in 1816 could be used as the framework for a multiple-stop tour that features exhibits in participating communities examining the pioneer settlements the Lincolns passed through, the travails the Lincolns faced on their journey, the ferry landing and crossing, and a number of other topics related to their journey to Indiana.

Accessibility: Publicly accessible at all times. ♿

Location: Downtown Vine Grove, on the north side of Main Street in front of Wilson & Muir Bank & Trust.

Contact: Tim Asher, 270-763-8067, tasher@kvnet.org



THOMAS LINCOLN'S FLATBOAT TRIP

In 1806 the ledgers and day books of a general store operated by William Montgomery and Robert Bleakly on the Elizabethtown Public Square show that Thomas Lincoln's account was credited with 21 pounds, 14 shillings and 1 ½ pence for 2,400 pounds of pork and 494 pounds of beef. These goods appear to have been part of a cargo being assembled by Bleakly and Montgomery for shipment to New Orleans. About the same time, Isaac Bush received credit for work on a boat being constructed at West Point. Not long afterward, Isaac Bush and Thomas Lincoln left West Point for New Orleans. They returned almost three months later. An entry made on May 16 reads: Thomas Lincoln credit-By going to New Orleans 16 pounds, 10 shillings. By Gold 13 pounds, 14 shillings, 7 ½ pence. During the following week he purchased cloth, sewing items, buttons, and thread totaling over twenty-two pounds. A charge also appears for over thirty-three pounds thought to have been for tailoring. Less than three weeks later, on June 12, 1806, Thomas Lincoln journeyed to Washington County to wed Nancy Hanks. Highway Marker 1598: Thomas Lincoln's Flatboat Trip, stands near the old boat landing in West Point where Thomas Lincoln and Isaac Bush began their profitable journey to New Orleans.

Highway Marker 1598: Thomas Lincoln's Flatboat Trip

In early spring of 1806, Thomas Lincoln, who was to become the father of Abraham Lincoln, took a flatboat loaded with produce from the West Point boat landing to New Orleans. This trip, requiring about sixty days, was a profitable one and enabled Thomas to make final plans for his marriage to Nancy Hanks, June 12 of that year.

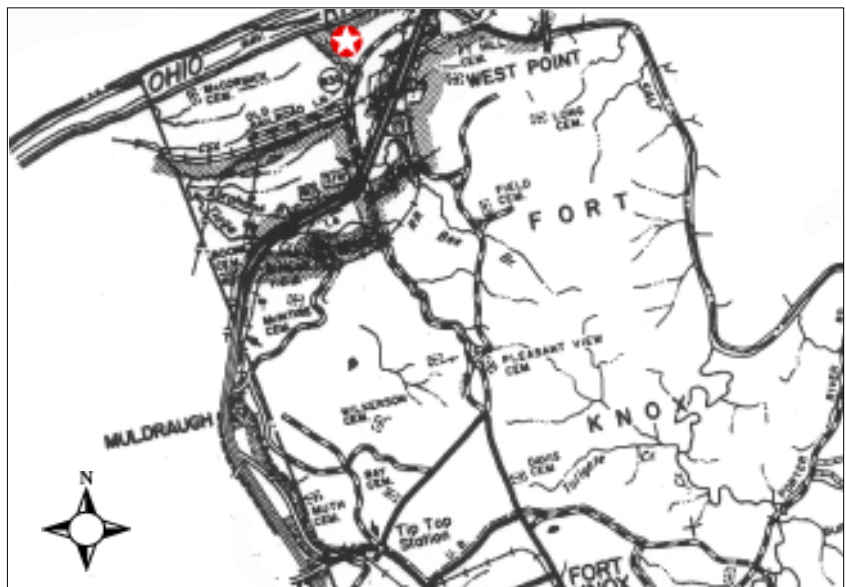
Present Interpretation: Highway Marker 1598: Thomas Lincoln's Flatboat Trip.

Potential as a visitor destination: Limited without more interpretation. Historic West Point, Civil War Fort Duffield in particular, is a popular visitor destination, attracting many in-state and out-of-state visitors each year.

Accessibility: There is no parking set aside for the marker, one must park on the grass adjacent to the road.

Location: On the corner of Elm and Fourth Streets, West Point. One-half block above the old West Point boat landing.

Contact: Tim Asher, 270-763-8067, tasher@kvnet.org



JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County has connections to the Lincoln family and President Abraham Lincoln on several levels. His grandfather, Captain Abraham Lincoln, settled near Long Run Creek in northeast Jefferson County in 1784. Two years later, he was killed by Native Americans and buried near the cabin he was building to shelter his family.

President Abraham Lincoln met his closest friend, Joshua Speed, in Springfield, Illinois. Speed, the son of one of Jefferson County's most influential families, returned to Kentucky after the death of his father. During a difficult period in his life, Abraham Lincoln paid a lengthy visit to Speed, spending several weeks in 1841 at his home, Farmington.

In the years following his death, Abraham Lincoln took on almost mythic proportions. The memorialization of President Lincoln began about 1890 and continued through the 1920s. It was during this period, in 1922, that Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Bernheim commissioned noted sculptor George Grey Barnard to create a statue of Lincoln for the Louisville Free Public Library.

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GRAVE OF CAPTAIN ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Captain Abraham Lincoln brought his family to Hughes Station in Jefferson County about 1784. He and his cousin, Hananiah, acted as "chain men," assisting in the survey of Captain Lincoln's 400-acre claim. Lincoln, with the help of his three sons, Mordecai, Josiah, and Thomas, began construction of a cabin near Long Run Creek. In May 1786, as Lincoln and his sons were returning to the station, they were attacked by Native Americans. Captain Lincoln was killed in the attack. Not long after, he was buried on his land, near the unfinished cabin.

Long Run Baptist Church was later built on or near the traditional site of Captain Lincoln's grave and the church cemetery grew up around the church. The limestone foundation of the church is still present. A granite stone commemorates Captain Abraham Lincoln's burial [#1 on map].



*Grave of Abraham Lincoln,
President Lincoln's grandfather.*

A plaque at the entrance to the cemetery reads:

YOU STAND ON HISTORIC GROUND

THIS SPOT WAS FREQUENTED BY THE ANCESTORS OF TWO PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, NAMELY ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1809-1865) AND HARRY S. TRUMAN (1884-19).

THE OLD CHURCH RUINS OCCUPY A SITE SELECTED BY CAPTAIN ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1738-1786), GRANDFATHER OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN, FOR A HOME IN 1780. PRIOR TO MAY 29, 1780, CAPTAIN LINCOLN ERECTED A CABIN WHERE THE RUINS NOW STAND.

THIS MARKER, THE RUINS OF THE OLD LONG RUN BAPTIST CHURCH AND THE CEMETERY ARE ON ONE ACRE

OF THE 400 ACRES OF LAND, THE ORIGINAL TITLE OF WHICH WAS OBTAINED BY CAPTAIN ABRAHAM LINCOLN ON A LAND-OFFICE TREASURY WARRANT NO 3334 ISSUED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA ON MARCH 4, 1780.

IT WAS HERE ON MAY 19, 1786, THAT CAPTAIN ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS AS PRESIDENT LINCOLN WROTE IN 1857 "KILLED BY THE INDIANS, NOT IN A BATTLE BUT BY STEALTH WHEN HE WAS LABORING TO OPEN A FARM IN THE FOREST." THE AMBUSH WAS WITNESSED BY CAPTAIN LINCOLN'S THREE SONS, MORDECAI, JOSIAH AND THOMAS LINCOLN (1778-1851, FATHER OF THE PRSIDENT, THEN ONLY EIGHT YEARS OF AGE). MORDECAI, THE ELDEST SON, SHOT AT THE INDIANS, KILLING ONE OF THEM. JOSIAH RAN ONE-HALF OF A MILE TO A STOCKADE KNOWN AS MORGAN HUGHES STATION FOR ASSISTANCE. HUGHES STATION WAS LOCATED ABOUT ONE-HALF OF A MILE NORTHEAST FROM THIS SPOT.

THE CHURCH AREA IS THE TRADITIONAL SITE OF CAPTAIN LINCOLN'S GRAVE. AFTER THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN LINCOLN HIS WIDOW AND FIVE CHILDREN MOVED TO WHAT IS NOW WASHINGTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WHERE MRS. LINCOLN'S RELATIVES RESIDED, LEAVING AN EMPTY UNTENDED LOG DWELLING. THE ABANDONED CABIN WAS USED BY THE SETTLERS FOR A SCHOOL AND AS A MEETING HOUSE OF THE BAPTISTS.

THE STORY OF THE DEATH OF HIS GRANDFATHER MADE A PROFOUND IMPRESSION ON THE MIND OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN. AFTER RELATING THE TRAGIC INCIDENT IN A LETTER DATED APRIL 1, 1854, THE PRESIDENT WROTE THAT THE STORY WAS "MORE STRONGLY THAN ALL OTHERS IMPRINTED ON MY MIND AND MEMORY."

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN'S MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER, HARRIETT LOUISA GREGG YOUNG, TWO OF HIS MATERNAL GREAT-GRANDFATHERS AND NUMEROUS OTHER RELATIVES FREQUENTLY CAME HERE TO WORSHIP AND ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

MORDECAI LINCOLN, HEIR-IN-LAW OF CAPTAIN LINCOLN, AND MARY, HIS WIFE, BY DEED, DATED APRIL 2, 1822, CONVEYED THE 400 ACRES OF LAND TO BENJAMIN BRIDGES, SENIOR. BENJAMIN BRIDGES BY A DEED DATED JULY 4, 1834, TANSFERRED ONE ACRE TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THE REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCH ON LONG RUN.

COUNTY JUDGE B. C. VAN ARSDALE, ROBERT A. FIFE, MARK BEAUCHAMP AND PHILLIP P. ARDERY, COMMISSIONERS OF THE FISCAL COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ACQUIRED THESE PREMISES BY DEED DATED AUGUST 23, 1961, FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE LONG RUN BAPTIST CHURCH FOR THE PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING A HISTORIC SHRINE.

Highway Marker 101 commemorating Captain Abraham Lincoln's death stands on the north side of US 60 four-tenths of a mile east of Long Run Road [#2 on map].

Highway Marker 101: Abraham Lincoln

Two miles northeast of here Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the president, was massacred by Indians in May 1786. Long Run Baptist Church, standing on the Lincoln Land Grant, marks the traditional site of the pioneers grave.

Present interpretation: The cemetery is interpreted through the plaque at the entrance and by a number of markers on the church grounds erected by Historic Middletown, Inc. The plaque tells a fairly complete story but it is dated in appearance, long, and rather difficult to read.

Potential as a visitor destination: The cemetery is well maintained, attractive, interesting and easily accessed. It could be a popular visitor destination.

Accessibility: The cemetery is open daily.

Location: Long Run Cemetery is located 1.9 miles north of US 60 and two-tenths mile east of Long Run Road at the end of Old Stage Road [#1 on map].

Contact: Richard Jett, Historic Preservation Administrator, Louisville Metro Planning, 502-574-5210, richard.jett@loukymetro.org



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FARMINGTON HISTORIC HOME

Farmington, built by John and Lucy Speed in 1815-1816, was constructed from a plan created by Thomas Jefferson. The Speeds raised thirteen children at Farmington, seven girls, two borne by John Speed's late wife, Abby, and six boys. The huge, self-sufficient farming operation produced hemp, corn, wheat, apples, cider, vinegar, pork, flax and sheep. John Speed was an important and influential man whose business interests extended well beyond Farmington. When he died in 1840 his son, Joshua, left Springfield, Illinois, and returned to Farmington.



Farmington.

Abraham Lincoln met Joshua Speed in 1837, on the day Lincoln arrived in Springfield. They seem to have taken an instant liking to each other and the almost penniless Lincoln did not hesitate when Joshua Speed offered to share his lodgings. The two men roomed together for four years. They remained close friends and confidants throughout Lincoln's life, including the Civil War years, despite their differing political opinions.

It was about the same time that Joshua Speed was called back to Farmington

that Lincoln began to have doubts concerning his engagement to Mary Todd. In early 1841 Lincoln broke his engagement and fell into a deep depression. When Joshua left Springfield Lincoln promised that he would visit Farmington. Still depressed and unsure of his feelings for Mary Todd, Lincoln decided to keep his promise to visit Joshua. He arrived in August 1841 to find that Joshua was having doubts about his own relationship with his future wife, Fanny Henning.

During his three-week visit, Lincoln lived in luxury such as he had never experienced. He observed slavery at Farmington first-hand. He also became friendly with other members of the Speed family. He often walked into Louisville to talk and borrow law books from Joshua's brother, James. He had long talks with Lucy Speed and spent time with Joshua's half sister, Mary. He also spent hours walking and talking with Joshua. Lincoln's time spent at Farmington, and his subsequent letters to Joshua, did a great deal to help Lincoln resolve his feelings toward Mary Todd, whom he married in November 1842.



The Visitors Center at Farmington.

Farmington, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, remained in the Speed family until 1865. In 1957 it was purchased by Historic Homes Foundation, Inc. Highway Marker 174: Farmington is located on the east side of Bardstown Road (US 31E) at Wendell Avenue, which leads to the Farmington Drive.

Highway Marker 174: Farmington

Historic residence completed by John Speed in 1810 from designs by Thomas Jefferson. Abraham Lincoln was a guest here of his close friend Joshua Speed in 1841. Open to the public.

Present interpretation: Farmington has an excellent interpretive program. Abraham Lincoln's relationship to Joshua Speed and his visit to Farmington are highlighted in the guidebook and mentioned on the tour. One wall of the visitor center is devoted to Lincoln and his experiences at Farmington. There are plans to develop special interpretive programs for the Lincoln Bicentennial. An exhibit will examine the relationship between Lincoln and the Speed family both before and during the Civil War. A three-week "Lincoln in Residence" program is planned that will interpret Lincoln's visit to Farmington in 1841, with an actor portraying Abraham Lincoln. A booklet, *Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln*, containing a talk given by Joshua Speed in 1884, will be reprinted and offered for sale at the gift shop.

Potential as a visitor destination: Farmington is an exceedingly popular visitor destination.

Accessibility: Farmington is open to the public 10 AM–5:00 PM Tuesday through Saturday and 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM. There are regularly scheduled guided tours of the house and a self-guided tour of the grounds.

Location: 3033 Bardstown Road, Louisville, on US 31E immediately north of the Watterson Expressway, I-264.

Contact: Carolyn Brooks, Executive Director, Farmington Historic Home, 502-452-9920, cjsb@bellsouth.net.



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STATUE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN BY GEORGE GREY BARNARD
LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

At noon on October 26, 1922, ceremonies were held on the lawn of the Louisville Free Public Library to unveil a gift to the City of Louisville from Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Bernheim, a statue of Abraham Lincoln by noted sculptor George Grey Barnard.

Lieutenant Governor S. Thurston Ballard made the presentation address. Mayor Huston Quinn accepted the statue on behalf of the city and the library board. The Bernheim's 11-year-old granddaughter, Miss Jane Rauh, pulled the cord that unveiled the statue, which was draped in an American flag. At the ceremony, Mr. Bernheim was presented with a memorial portfolio, part of which read:

“In this latest gift you have you have presented this community with an imposing memorial to Kentucky’s immortal son, which will ever be a reminder of Kentucky’s sublime gift to the nation and the world.”

Isaac Bernheim was a philanthropist whose most impressive legacy is 10,000-acre Bernheim Forest in Bullitt and Nelson counties. The Bernheim family was well known for its gifts of civic statuary – Thomas Jefferson at the Jefferson County Courthouse (1899), the bust of Abraham Lincoln in Frankfort (1910), and Lincoln at the Louisville Free Public Library.

The sculptor, George Grey Barnard, first won critical acclaim in Paris in 1894. In the next several years he produced a number of well-



George Grey Barnard's Abraham Lincoln.

received pieces. In 1902 he was awarded a \$700,000 contract to produce two monumental groups of figures for the new Pennsylvania State Capitol at Harrisburg. The project took eight years to complete. After completing the Harrisburg commission, Barnard began what he called “my journey into the heart of Lincoln.” He spent months studying photographs of the President and the life mask molded by Douglas Volk for a full-length statue commissioned by the Taft family of Ohio. When unveiled at Lytle Park in Cincinnati in 1917, the statue provoked strong reactions. Some felt that Barnard’s portrayal was ugly and in poor taste, others praised the statue as the most true-to-life representation of Abraham Lincoln ever made. Former President William Howard Taft made these comments at the dedication:

The sculptor, in this presentment of Lincoln, which we here dedicate, portrays the unusual height, the sturdy frame, the lack of care in dress, the homely but strong face, the sad but sweet features, the intelligence and vision of our greatest American. He has with success caught in this countenance and this form the contrast between pure soul and the commanding intellect of one who belongs to the ages, and the habit and garb of his origin and life among the plain people – a profound lesson in democracy and its highest possibility.

The statue unveiled in 1922 in Louisville bears a strong resemblance to the statue unveiled in Cincinnati five years earlier. Barnard executed study after study of Lincoln between 1910 and his death in 1938. Only a few, like the statue in Louisville, were full length.

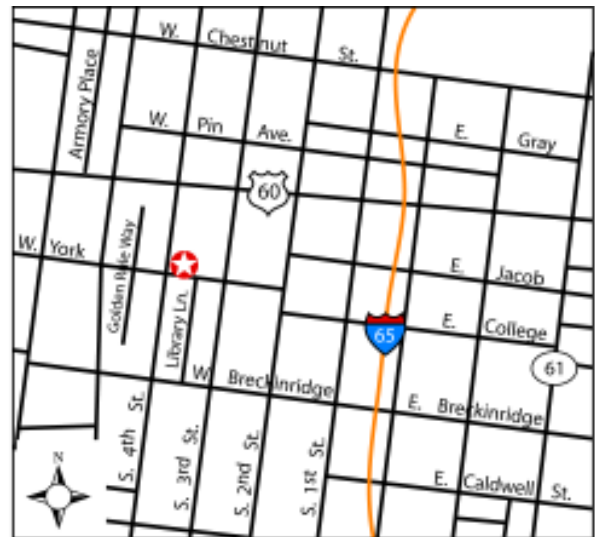
Present interpretation: Plaque on the base of the sculpture that reads: Abraham Lincoln / George Grey Barnard, Sculptor / Presented to the City of Louisville / by / Mr. and Mrs. Isaac W. Bernheim / Oct. 26, 1922

Potential as a visitor destination: The statue is of interest as a work of art, a memorialization of Lincoln, and for its unconventional portrayal of Lincoln.

Accessibility: The statue is accessible at all times.

Location: Located on west terrace of the Louisville Free Public Library, on Fourth Street at Library Drive.

Contact: Richard Jett, Historic Preservation Administrator, Louisville Metro Planning, 502-574-5210, richard.jett@loukymetro.org



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JESSAMINE COUNTY

Camp Nelson, a Union army depot, was founded to help Lincoln achieve one of his earliest war aims - the liberation of East Tennessee from the Confederacy. As the mission of Camp Nelson evolved it became a recruitment camp for African American Union soldiers, the United States Colored Troops or USCT. It also became home to the families of those men. Camp Nelson was Kentucky's emancipation center.

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CAMP NELSON HERITAGE PARK

From the beginning of the Civil War Abraham Lincoln wanted to send Union soldiers to East Tennessee to free the region's loyal citizens from Confederate rule. In June 1863 Gen. Ambrose Burnside was sent to Kentucky to establish a base of operations for an invasion of East Tennessee. Burnside named the base Camp Nelson in honor of General William "Bull" Nelson. Nelson, an old friend of President Lincoln's, was sent by the president to Kentucky to recruit for the Union and to establish Camp Dick Robinson in Garrard County, which became a rallying place for loyal Kentuckians. It was from Camp Nelson that Burnside led the Union army that eventually captured Knoxville.

General recruitment of former slaves into the Union army began in 1863. Lincoln, however, was hesitant to push the recruitment of enslaved Kentuckians for political reasons. He feared that Kentucky might secede if recruitment was initiated. Finally, in February 1864, the recruitment of slaves began in Kentucky. Slaves in large numbers came into Camp Nelson, not only men but their families as well. The army was not prepared to deal with the refugees. In November 1864 the women, children, and old men were forced to leave. It was bitterly cold and the expulsion resulted in the deaths of many of those people. The commander at Camp Nelson was ordered to bring the refugees back and to construct proper shelter for them and to provide food and other necessities. In March 1865 a new Union policy was formulated as a result of the expulsion of the refugees at Camp Nelson - if a man enlisted in the army, not only he but also his family was freed.



The Oliver Perry House, known as the "White House," at Camp Nelson Heritage Park.

The commander at Camp Nelson was ordered to bring the refugees back and to construct proper shelter for them and to provide food and other necessities. In March 1865 a new Union policy was formulated as a result of the expulsion of the refugees at Camp Nelson - if a man enlisted in the army, not only he but also his family was freed.

Present interpretation: Camp Nelson has nearly four miles of trails with over twenty wayside interpretive signs. The Oliver Perry House, also known as the "White House," is furnished with period furnishings. Guided tours of the house, which served as the headquarters building during the Civil War, are also available. Exhibits in adjacent buildings offer additional information on Camp Nelson. A living history event is held each fall.

Potential as a visitor destination: Camp Nelson was the physical embodiment one Lincoln policy and the

catalyst for two more. A new interpretive center building is nearing completion. Three of the exhibits planned for the new center discuss the issues noted above. The Camp Nelson foundation is planning to hold at least one special event in conjunction with the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration and it is interested in participating with special programs and exhibits.

Accessibility: The interpreted trails are open year round from dawn to dusk. Tours of the White House are available Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-5PM. ♿

Location: Camp Nelson Heritage Park is located at 6980 Danville Road (US 27), approximately 20 miles south of Lexington, 6 miles south of Nicholasville, and 7.5 miles southeast of Wilmore along US 1268. The Park entrance is on the original Danville Pike, adjacent to US 27, one mile north of the Camp Nelson National Cemetery.

Contact: W. Stephen McBride, Director of Interpretation, 859-881-5716, stephenmcbride@insightbb.com.



KENTON COUNTY

In October 2004 the City of Covington unveiled the sculpture “Young Lincoln,” the first work commissioned for the city’s Art of Discovery program, a partnership with Baker-Hunt Foundation, the Behringer-Crawford Museum, and the Carnegie Arts Center, to celebrate artists and the arts.

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“YOUNG LINCOLN” BY MATT LANGFORD
MARY ANN MONGAN LIBRARY, COVINGTON

This life-size bronze statue, sculpted by Matt Langford, depicts Abraham Lincoln as a young man. Two symbols help represent Lincoln’s life at that period – the ax, which he used to help support himself, and a book, which represents his aspirations and his self-education. A plaque at the base of the statue bears a phrase from Lincoln’s writings, “I shall prepare myself. Someday my chance will come.”



Artist Matt Langford, his wife, Allison, and their daughters stand next to “Young Lincoln.”

Langford’s “Young Lincoln” took top prize and won the public art commission component of Covington’s “Art of Discovery” festival held April 11, 2003. Eva G. and Oakley Farris of Covington sponsored the commission. Mr. Oakley Farris donated the statue to the city in honor of his wife, Eva, at a dedication ceremony held October 4, 2004.

Matt Langford, who lives in a 170-year old cabin in Union, Kentucky, designed the sculpture of Lincoln to inspire. “I want people to think, ‘What can I do? What can I be?’ I want children to see themselves in this piece,” he said in an interview for the *Covington Enquirer*. Langford has been a sculptor for fifteen years. The Lincoln statue is his first large outdoor piece.

Present interpretation: A plaque on the pedestal of the sculpture. Information is available at the Mary Ann Mongan Library.

Potential as a visitor destination: The sculpture will attract visitors as a work of art and in its portrayal of Lincoln as a young man. It also compliments the Mary Ann Mongan Library’s local history collection, the largest collection of genealogy and local history material in Northern Kentucky.

Accessibility: The statue is located on the library grounds and is accessible at all times. The library is open daily with the exception of specified holidays. ♿

Location: Southeast corner of Fifth Street and Scott Boulevard on the grounds of the Mary Ann Mongan branch of the Kenton County Public Library, Covington, Kentucky.

Contact: Julia Allegrini, MLIS, Branch Manager, Mary Ann Mongan Branch, Kenton County Public

Library, Covington, Kentucky, 859-
962-4074,
Julia.Allegri@kentonlibrary.org



LaRUE COUNTY

The stature of Abraham Lincoln grew to almost larger than life size in the decades following the Civil War and LaRue County took great pride in its native son. An impressive bronze statue of Lincoln by sculptor Adolph Weinman was erected on the public square in Hodgenville in 1909 as authorized by the U.S. Congress. Over one hundred thousand contributors, from politicians to prominent authors such as Mark Twain, to students in LaRue County schools, formed the Lincoln Farm Association; which raised \$350,000 for, in part, the purchase and restoration of the cabin in which the president was born and the construction of the Memorial Building. The 110-acre tract three miles south of Hodgenville was designated as the Abraham Lincoln National Park in 1916. In 2001 Lincoln's boyhood home on Knob Creek was purchased by the LaRue County Fiscal Court, in large part with funds donated by concerned citizens and groups. Later that same year the property was conveyed to the National Park Service.

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

In 1808 Thomas and Nancy Lincoln, with their daughter, Sarah, left their home in Elizabethtown and moved to a 348.5-acre farm three miles south of Hodgen's Mill (present-day Hodgenville). They had paid \$200 for the farm on Nolin Creek where the land was stony and not known for its productivity. The family settled into a small, but typical, cabin with a dirt floor, one door, a window, and a chimney made of clay, straw and hardwood. Nancy was expecting when the family moved and on February 12, 1809 she gave birth to a boy, who was named Abraham, after his paternal grandfather. After two years on the Sinking Spring Farm the family moved again, to a farm ten miles to the northeast on Knob Creek.

The beginning of the 20th century saw a nationwide movement to memorialize Abraham Lincoln. In 1894 New York businessman A. W. Dennett purchased a portion of the Sinking Spring Farm and subsequently exhibited what was then believed to be the cabin where Lincoln was born throughout the country. In 1905 Richard L. Jones, with financial support from Robert Collier, publisher of the *Collier's Weekly*, purchased the farm from Dennett. The following year Collier and such notables as Mark Twain, Samuel Gompers, and William Jennings Bryan formed the Lincoln Farm Association to preserve Abraham Lincoln's birthplace. Association board member Norman Hapgood purchased the logs of the cabin in February 1906 and the Lincoln Farm Association raised the money to build a memorial in which it could be housed. In 1909 President Theodore Roosevelt laid the Memorial's cornerstone. Two years later, the neo-classical structure was dedicated by President



Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.

William Howard Taft. The Memorial and Sinking Spring Farm became a National Park in 1916. In 1959 the site was designated the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.

Present interpretation: Visitors are given a brochure at the Visitor Center, where a short film is shown every half-hour. The Visitor Center also has announcements of Ranger Talks at the Birthplace and the Knob Creek Farm, several exhibits, and a large selection of books and other materials available for purchase. Outdoor interpretation includes brass signs, one entitled The Sinking Spring, at the entrance to the sinking spring, and one entitled The Memorial Building, at the base of the steps leading to the building. There are also informative plaques on the back of the Memorial Building. Several fiberglass embedded interpretive signs discuss the boundary survey of the Sinking Spring Farm and “The Boundary Oak.” There are eight waysides on the grounds and eight on the Big Sink Trail. In addition, a Ranger is stationed in the Memorial Building to answer questions and provide information.

Potential as a visitor destination: Average annual visitation for fiscal years 2001, 2002 and 2004 was 224,117 persons. An event at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site on February 12, 2008 will officially begin the two-year celebration of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial. A number of events, publications, and education initiatives have been proposed.

Accessibility: Open year round, 8 AM – 6:45 PM, Memorial Day through Labor Day, 8 AM – 4:45 PM the remainder of the year. Closed New Years Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, &

Location: 2995 Lincoln Farm Road, Hodgenville, 42748. The entrance to the park is three miles south of Hodgenville on the west side of US 31E.

Contact: Sandy Brue, Chief of Interpretation, 270-358-3137, sandy_brue@nps.gov.

Website: www.nps.gov/abli



ABRAHAM LINCOLN BOYHOOD HOME AT KNOB CREEK

Abraham Lincoln's earliest memories centered around the Knob Creek Farm. The Lincoln family, Thomas and Nancy and their son Abraham and daughter Sarah, moved to Knob Creek when



Cabin at the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home site.

Abraham was two years old. Lincoln attended his first school near Athertonville and helped on the farm as much as a child could with such tasks as planting seed. The farm was located on the busiest road in the region, the Louisville-Nashville Turnpike, and there is no doubt that Lincoln saw and learned from the wide variety of men and women traveling the road – soldiers marching past during the War of 1812, stagecoach traffic, peddlers, and slaves being taken to distant markets. During the time the family lived on Knob Creek another son, named Thomas Lincoln, Jr., was born. He lived but a short time and was buried in the nearby Redmon family cemetery. In 1816 a suit was filed, calling

into question the title to the Knob Creek farm. George Lindsey, the Lincoln's landlord, and the ten ejected families, including the Lincolns, won the court case. By that time, however, the Lincoln family had left the Knob Creek Farm and Kentucky.

When Hattie and Chester Howard purchased the former Lincoln farm in 1928 the Lincoln cabin was no longer standing. The Howards reconstructed the Lincoln cabin on the approximate site of the original using logs salvaged from the Gollaher family cabin. Next to the reconstructed cabin they built the "Lincoln Tavern," a tavern and restaurant built in the rustic style. By September 1933 the site was open to the public. Thousands visited the site each year, despite the Depression, in part, perhaps, because it was promoted as part of the tourism effort undertaken by the Lincoln Memorial Highway Association. In the 1940s the tavern was converted to a museum and gift shop. At some point, Highway Marker 120 was erected at the site.

Highway Marker 120: Lincoln Knob Creek Farm

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) lived on this 228 acre farm, 1811-1816. He wrote in 1860: "My earliest recollection is of the Knob Creek place." A younger brother was born here.

Many individuals and groups including the park friends group known as Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage, Inc., the Kentucky General Assembly, Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board, LaRue County Fiscal Court and the National Park Trust contributed funds for the purchase of the Knob Creek Farm in April 2001. In November of that same year the site was donated to the National Park Service. It is now administered by the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.

Present interpretation: Current active interpretation consists of a short oral presentation by the ranger on duty, walks/hikes and educational family programs. Passive one-site interpretation includes a brochure, Highway Marker 120: Lincoln Knob Creek Farm, signs on the Tavern building door, next to the cabin and on the cabin entrance gate. There are plans to convert the historic Lincoln Tavern

into a visitor center.

Potential as a visitor destination: Average annual visitation for fiscal years 2001, 2002 and 2004 was 224,117 persons. An event at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site on February 12, 2008 will officially begin the two-year celebration of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial.

Accessibility: Open year round from dawn to dusk, staffed April to October. ♿



Location: Seven miles north of Hodgenville, Kentucky and two miles south of Athertonville, Kentucky on US 31E.

Contact: Sandy Brue, Chief of Interpretation, 270-358-3137, sandy_brue@nps.gov

Website: www.nps.gov/abli

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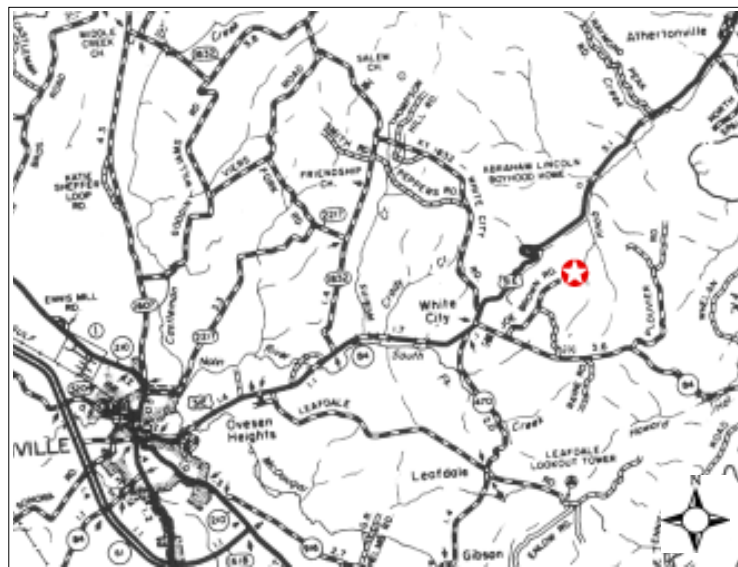
GRAVE OF THOMAS LINCOLN, JR.

In 1860 Abraham Lincoln told Dr. Joseph H. Barrett of the *Cincinnati Gazette* that he had a brother, two years his junior, who had died in early childhood. He said that he remembered visiting his brother's grave with his mother before the family left Kentucky. Thomas Lincoln, Jr. is thought to have been born shortly after the family moved to Knob Creek and to have died between 1811 and 1815. In 1933 James Taylor, foreman of a group of LaRue County relief workers who were clearing weeds and briars at the old Redmon Family Cemetery, found a small sunken grave with no visible marker. He dug a few inches and found a triangular limestone rock with the initials T. L. carved into it. Taylor remembered that his grandfather had told him that Abraham Lincoln's baby brother had been buried in the Redmon Cemetery. Elderly residents in the area recalled a story, passed down over

the years, that told of George Redmon carrying the small wooden box holding Thomas Lincoln's body up the hill to the cemetery overlooking the Knob Creek Valley. The Redmon Family Cemetery contains five other marked graves, with death dates ranging from 1839-1860. [The above information is taken from *Lincoln's Kentucky Years* by Carl Howell.]

Present interpretation: A grave marker put in place by Boy Scouts of America, Post 15, Des Moines, Iowa in 1959, which reads Tommy Lincoln 1811-1815. This stone replaced a field stone marker simply inscribed "T. L." The grave is mentioned in the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek site brochure and in the oral presentation given by the ranger.

Potential as a visitor destination: Limited; even if the landowners grant access to the cemetery, it is unlikely that people will want to walk almost one-half mile uphill (and then down again) to view the grave.



Accessibility: The grave is on private property and there is no visitor access at the present time. Persons in Hodgenville are working with the landowners to make it possible for at least limited numbers of visitors to visit the gravesite.

Location: Redmon Family Cemetery, approximately four-tenths of a mile beyond the end of Joe Brown Road.

Contact: Tommy Turner, LaRue County Judge Executive, 270-358-4400, Lcjudge@scrtc.com

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GRAVE OF AUSTIN GOLLAHER

One day, when the Lincolns were living on Knob Creek, young Abraham Lincoln was playing near the creek with his friend Austin Gollaher. Austin, who lived on the adjoining farm, was three years older than Abraham. The creek was swollen from recent rains and while trying to

cross on a narrow log; Lincoln fell into the creek. The creek was running too fast for Abraham, who could not swim, to climb out. Austin got a long pole and held it out to Abe, who grabbed it. Austin pulled him ashore, then pummeled and shook his friend to bring him to and to get the water out of his lungs.

Lincoln and Gollaher remained friends for many years but lost touch when the Lincolns left Kentucky. Lincoln never forgot his boyhood friend, however. In 1861, just after the Union defeat at Bull Run, Dr. Jesse Rodman and Mr. David T. Browningfield of Hodgenville traveled to Washington D.C. At the White House they sent in their cards to see President Lincoln. Dr Rodman later wrote, "In a short time we saw Mr. Lincoln coming, swinging his long arms and legs, walking as leisurely as if nothing unusual confronted him. He held out his hand and said: 'Good morning, gentlemen. You say you are from Hodgenville, Kentucky.' 'Yes sir, we are,' I told him. 'What has become of my friend, Austin Gollaher?' I told him that Mr. Gollaher was still out on Knob Creek where he had always lived. 'Tell him when you go home that I want to see him and if he does not have the money to make the trip to Washington, I will send it to him,' he said. When we went home, we told Mr. Gollaher what he said. But he did not make the trip. He said he was afraid to ride the train."



Grave of Austin Gollaher.

Austin Gollaher died in 1898 and was buried in the cemetery at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, which was established in 1852. His stone reads "Lincoln's Playmate." Highway Marker 827: Lincoln's Playmate is adjacent to the cemetery.

Highway Marker 827: Lincoln's Playmate

To the west, in Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, is the grave of Austin Gollaher, 1806 - 98. Lincoln, while president, once said, "I would rather see (him) than any man living." They were schoolmates and playmates when the Lincoln family lived in this area, 1813 to 1816. Gollaher is credited with rescuing Lincoln from flooded waters of Knob Creek.

Present interpretation: Highway Marker 827. Austin Gollaher's rescue of Abraham Lincoln from the waters of Knob Creek is mentioned in the site brochure for *Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek* and in the oral presentation given at the site.

Potential as a visitor destination: Fairly limited, although some visitors will be interested enough by the Gollaher story to seek out his grave.

Accessibility: The cemetery is open to the public. Parking is available in the church lot.



Location: 125 Howardstown Road; on the south side of KY 84 four-tenths mile east of US 31E

Contact: Tommy Turner, LaRue County Judge Executive, 270-358-4400, Lcjudge@scrtc.com

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SITE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FIRST SCHOOL

While living on the Knob Creek Farm Abraham Lincoln and his sister Sarah attended school in a one-room, dirt floored schoolhouse located in Athertonville, about two miles north of their home on Knob Creek. They first attended school for about three months in 1815 where they were taught by Zachariah Riney, who had come to Kentucky from Maryland about 1795. About 1830 Riney moved to Hardin County, to Rineyville, which was named for the Riney family.

In 1816 the Lincoln children attended classes taught by Caleb Hazel, a surveyor who was also a Methodist minister. Hazel, who was related to the Hanks family by marriage, lived on an adjoining farm. Hazel, a trained scribe and an instructor of English grammar, taught Lincoln how to form letters and the rudiments of grammar. His schooling in Kentucky, though short in duration, was enough to teach Lincoln to read and write. Highway Marker 1482: Lincoln's First School, marks the general location of the Athertonville schoolhouse.

Highway Marker 1482: Abraham Lincoln's First School

Lincoln's formal education began in a primitive log cabin near this site. While the Lincoln family was living on Knob Creek, he and his sister Sarah attended ABC schools for a short period of time. First school taught by Zachariah Riney; the second by Caleb Hazel. The Lincolns' home stood 2 miles south on the old Cumberland Road.

Present interpretation: Highway Marker 1482:
Lincoln's First School.

Potential as a visitor destination: None at the present time. There are no physical remains of the school and the site is private property.

Accessibility: There is no designated parking area, or even a road shoulder, where visitors can park to read the marker. It is possible to park in a graveled area (private property) on the opposite side of US 31E near the marker if one is determined to read it.

Location: On the west side of US 31E at the south edge of Athertonville.

Contact: Tommy Turner, LaRue County Judge Executive, 270-358-4400, Lcjudge@scrtc.com



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THE LINCOLN MUSEUM

The Lincoln Museum depicts the life of Abraham Lincoln in a series of twelve life-size vignettes. The scenes include Lincoln's early years at the Knob Creek Farm; Lincoln as a shopkeeper at the Berry-Lincoln store in New Salem, Illinois; Lincoln's visit to Joshua Speed at Farmington in Louisville; the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation; the Gettysburg Address, Ford's Theatre and six others. A brochure provides background and context for each diorama. The second floor of the museum is devoted to the Museum's permanent collection of paintings and other works of art. Traveling exhibits or collections on loan from other institutions are also displayed on the second floor. The gift shop has books, Kentucky and Lincoln memorabilia, local crafts, items for children and more.



The Lincoln Museum.

Potential as a visitor destination: The Lincoln Museum and the City of Hodgenville are planning a series of quarterly events, beginning in February 2008, that will be held throughout the Lincoln Bicentennial observation. The museum has the potential to attract every person who visits the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace and the Boyhood Home on Knob Creek, well over 200,000 visitors each year.

Accessibility: Open daily, call for current hours, \$, ♿

Location: Off of US 31E at 66 Lincoln Square, Hodgenville.

Contact: Tommy Turner, LaRue County Judge Executive, 270-358-4400, Lcjudge@scrtc.com

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN STATUE

BY A. A. WEINMAN



*Adolph Weinman's
Abraham Lincoln*

Concerted efforts to commemorate the life of Abraham Lincoln began early in the 20th century. In 1904 the Kentucky Legislature established the Lincoln Monument Commission to plan and erect a monument to Lincoln in Hodgenville, the city closest to his place of birth. The Commission ultimately recommended that a statue of Lincoln be placed on the public square and the General Assembly appropriated \$5,000 toward that purpose. Another \$10,000 was appropriated by the U.S. Congress. Adolph Weinman, a student of Augustus St. Gaudens, who created the Lincoln statue in Chicago, was chosen to create the piece. Weinman's finished work depicts Lincoln seated in an Empire-style chair, executed in bronze. The statue sits on a marble base decorated with a Greek fret band inlaid with stars. On the east side of the base, bronze letters read "LINCOLN." The official unveiling took place on May 31, 1909 in a ceremony attended by over 10,000

people. Among the honored guests were Abraham Lincoln's son, Robert T. Lincoln, and Mrs. Ben Hardin Helm (née Emilie Todd), Mary Todd Lincoln's half-sister and sister-in-law of Abraham Lincoln. The Abraham Lincoln Statue remains on the public square, now Lincoln Square, where it was originally placed.

Present interpretation: None

Potential as a visitor destination: The statue, by virtue of its prominent location, is visible to every person who drives through Hodgenville on US 31E, KY 201 or Business KY 61.

Accessibility: The statue is accessible at all times. ♿

Location: US 31 E at Lincoln Square

Contact: Tommy Turner, LaRue County Judge Executive, 270-358-4400, Lcjudge@scrtc.com



MADISON COUNTY

Madison County was the home of one of Kentucky's most outspoken opponents of slavery, Cassius Marcellus Clay. Supporters of slavery often threatened him and at least once Clay was attacked and had to defend himself. Clay actively supported his cousin, Henry Clay, for the presidency in the 1840s and in 1860 he supported Lincoln for the Republican presidential nomination and campaigned actively for him.

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WHITE HALL STATE HISTORIC SITE

White Hall was the home of Cassius Marcellus Clay. Clay was the son of Green Clay, the largest slaveholder in the state, yet he espoused the cause of emancipation from young adulthood. Clay was an impressive looking man, well over six feet tall, big boned and broad shouldered. He was gentle with friends but was a formidable opponent, quick to anger. He was not only not afraid of a fight; he seemed to revel in them. His habit was to go about fully armed with two pistols and a bowie knife, his favorite weapon.



White Hall, home of Cassius Clay.

Outspoken and fearless, Clay found a ready welcome with the small group of Kentucky emancipationists that had for so long been intimidated by the powerful slaveholding aristocracy. In spite of his emancipationist views, Clay was almost like a member of the family to Mary Todd. They had known each other well since Clay had come to stay with the Todds following a fire that destroyed the dormitories at Transylvania, where he was enrolled. Several years later, Clay married Mary Jane Warfield, a close friend of the Todd girls, and Elizabeth Todd Edwards was matron of honor at the wedding.

In 1845 Clay's anti-slavery newspaper, *The True American*, made its debut in Lexington. Each edition brought a new rash of threats. One, scrawled in blood, began "You are meaner than the autocrats of hell," and went on to say "Eternal hatred is locked up in the bosoms of braver men, your betters, for you. The hemp is ready for your neck. Your life cannot be spared. Plenty thirst for your blood – are determined to have it." It was signed, "Revengers." Ultimately, Clay was forced, by legal means not violence, to suspend publication.

In 1860, Clay campaigned with his customary vigor and fearlessness, explaining the new Republican Party and urging the nomination of Abraham Lincoln for president. After Lincoln was nominated, Clay wrote Lincoln pledging his unfaltering loyalty. Lincoln answered, thanking him for his support and several weeks later Clay took to the stump in Lincoln's behalf. After the election, Lincoln rewarded Clay for his political support with by naming him ambassador to Russia. In 1862, Clay returned to White Hall briefly after being asked by Lincoln to gauge the reaction of Kentuckians to an emancipation proclamation. Clay urged Lincoln to issue the proclamation, saying that it would be received favorably in Kentucky. Clay was wrong. He

returned to Russia in 1863 and did not return to this country until 1869, four years after Lincoln's assassination.

Present interpretation: Guided tours of the house are offered year round. The house is furnished with period furniture and some family pieces. The tours are balanced, presenting information on Clay and his wife and the house and furnishings. The third floor museum displays include Lincoln memorabilia. The grounds also include a slave quarters and a kitchen, which is interpreted by a docent.

Potential as a visitor destination: White Hall is already a visitor destination. Kentucky State Parks is planning, if funding is available, to have both new museum exhibits and events at this and other parks for the Lincoln Bicentennial.

Accessibility: White Hall is open April 1 – Labor Day, daily from 9 AM to 4:30 PM, with tours every 45 minutes. From Labor Day – October 31 the site is open Wednesday-Saturday from 9 AM to 4:30 PM, with tours every 45 minutes. From November 1 – March 31 tours are given at 10 AM, 12 PM and 2 PM, Wednesday - Saturday.

Location: White Hall is located at 500 White Hall Shrine Road, a dead end road that ends at the site. The site is just off of I-75 at exit 95, near Richmond.

Contact: Kathleen White, Park Manager, 859-623-9178, WhiteHall@ky.gov.



MEADE COUNTY

Like most craftsmen engaged at least part time in the building trades, Thomas Lincoln worked on projects in a number of locations. In 1797 he was in Elizabethtown helping to construct a mill and millrace on Severn's Creek for Samuel Haycraft. Sometime after this, he worked helped construct the mill on Doe Run Creek in Meade County.

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DOE RUN INN



Doe Run Inn

Construction of Stevenson's Mill, a three-and-one-half story structure built of limestone, began about 1780 and ended about 1790. Around 1800 construction began on an addition. The addition, also of limestone, was two-and-one-half stories and, like the original building had a walk out basement. An old record book shows a payment made to Thomas Lincoln for work on the new wing, which was not completed until 1821.

In the early 1900s the mill, which had been closed for years, was converted into a summer resort, the Sulfur Wells Hotel, where guests came to "take the waters." About

1947 the resort became a traditional restaurant and hotel and was renamed Doe Run Hotel, the name was changed to Doe Run Inn in 1958. The inn has been in the same family for six generations. Doe Run Inn, part of the Doe Run Creek Historic District, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Present interpretation: None. The inn's website has a brief history that mentions the payment made to Thomas Lincoln.

Potential as a visitor destination: Doe Run Inn is a popular tourist destination and the restaurant is popular with area residents. The owners might consent to having a wayside or waysides placed on the grounds interpreting Thomas Lincoln's employment.

Accessibility: Doe Run Inn is open year round. The lobby and restaurant can accommodate wheelchairs.

Location: 500 Doe Run Hotel Road, Brandenburg, 40108. Doe Run Hotel Road intersects KY 448 four and one-half miles south of Brandenburg.

Contact: Cherie and Ken Whitman, Managers, 270-422-2982, info@doeruninn.com



MERCER COUNTY

Harrodsburg is the city in which the Rev. Jesse Head, the Methodist minister who performed the marriage ceremony of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, spent the last twenty-two years of his life. He is buried in Spring Hill Cemetery.

In the early twentieth century concerned residents of Harrodsburg began a successful effort to preserve the log home in which Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married. Those efforts ultimately led to the construction of the Lincoln Marriage Temple on the grounds of what became Old Fort Harrod State Park.

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LINCOLN MARRIAGE TEMPLE OLD FORT HARROD STATE PARK

Sometime prior to February 1909 the Lincoln Memorial Association was formed to establish a historic shrine at Beechland, in Washington County, to preserve the cabin in which Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married. That month the Association printed a circular identifying the Richard Berry Cabin as the site of the marriage of Abraham Lincoln's parents and identified its location. In 1911, due to efforts made by Society members, Mr. W. A. Clements and his son, Walter L. Clements, of Springfield, Kentucky presented the cabin to the Harrodsburg Historical Society. The cabin was reassembled on a parcel of ground that is now encompassed by Old Fort Harrod State Park.

The Lincoln Marriage Temple was constructed to shelter the cabin and to preserve it from the elements. The red brick building was designed to resemble an early Kentucky church building. It was a gift to the Commonwealth of Kentucky by Mrs. Edmund Burke Ball of Muncie, Indiana in memory of her parents. The Marriage Temple was dedicated on June 12, 1931, the 125th anniversary of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. William Nuckles Doak, United States Secretary of Labor, read the dedication.



The Lincoln Marriage Temple

Present Interpretation: Interpretation is limited to four brass plaques, one on each interior wall. The first commemorates the dedication, the second is entitled "The Lincoln Marriage Cabin," the third, "Thomas Lincoln," and the fourth, "Nancy Hanks." The plaques are placed uncomfortably high on the walls and the text is difficult to read in the dimly lit structure. The cabin itself has no representative furnishings or interpretation of the wedding ceremony.

Potential as a visitor destination: Old Fort Harrod State Park welcomes thousands of visitors each year. Interpretation at the Marriage Temple could be improved, enhancing the visitor's understanding and appreciation of the site and the event it commemorates. There are tentative plans to stage a reenactment of the wedding ceremony in the actual Berry cabin during the Lincoln Bicentennial celebration. Additional events and interpretation are also being planned if funding is available.

Accessibility: Old Fort Harrod State Park is open 9 AM –5 PM year round. The Marriage Temple is not wheelchair accessible.

Location: Old Fort Harrod State Park, 100 College Street, Harrodsburg, at the intersection of US 127 and US 68.

Contact: Joan Huffman, Park Manager, 859-734-3314, joan.huffman@ky.gov

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MANSION MUSEUM
OLD FORT HARROD STATE PARK

One room in the Mansion Museum, which is opposite the Marriage Temple, is dedicated to Abraham Lincoln. According to the booklet, “Lincoln Marriage Temple,” the Lincolnian Room, or Union Room, as the museum docent referred to it, was created concurrently with the Marriage Temple and was intended to form part of the Lincoln Marriage Temple Shrine. The booklet praises the efforts of Mrs. James Darnell, then-Executive Director of Parks, saying that she “is sensitive to the many historic memories around Harrodsburg in connection with the Lincoln Family and is preparing this room in order that it may be a place of unusual interest.”

Present interpretation: The exhibits in the Lincolnian Room do not appear to have changed much since 1931. While a number of the items are interesting, such as a copy of *Laws of the State of Illinois* signed by Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Logan, there is little explanation or interpretation to put the items into context. Other items in the collection are a child’s garment made by Mary Todd Lincoln for her niece Mary Stuart Edwards, an 1860 presidential campaign pin and photograph, an 1864 presidential ticket, and a walnut sliver from the presidential box at Ford’s Theatre. There is also a large painting of Lincoln, a small statue, and a life mask and hands cast from the originals created by sculptor Leonard Wells Volk in April and May of 1860.

Potential as a visitor destination: As noted above, Old Fort Harrod State Park receives thousands of visitors each year. The exhibits in the Mansion Museum have an enormous potential to educate and inform but potential is not being realized.

Accessibility: Old Fort Harrod State Park and the Mansion Museum are open 9 AM –5 PM year round. ♿

Location: Old Fort Harrod State Park, 100 College Street, Harrodsburg, at the intersection of US 127 and US 68.

Contact: Joan Huffman, Park Manager, 859-734-3314, joan.huffman@ky.gov



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GRAVE OF REV. JESSE HEAD



Grave of the Rev. Jesse Head.

Jesse Head and his wife, Jane (Ramsey) came to Kentucky from Maryland about 1795. They settled in what is now Washington County on a fifty-four acre farm on Long Run, not far from the Lincoln and Berry families. Head also owned several lots in Springfield and resided there for much of the time he was in the county. In 1806 Head, who was also a Methodist pastor, officiated at the wedding of Nancy Hanks and Thomas Lincoln. One account says that the Thomas Lincoln, who was a Baptist, called upon him to solemnize the marriage not only because he was a friend and neighbor but also because, living in the county seat and rarely being absent on the circuit, he was generally available.

The Rev. Head, who was a cabinetmaker by trade, moved his shop to Harrodsburg in 1810. He was already familiar with the town; Head had been credited with discovering the Harrodsburg Springs in 1806. Head and his son Bascom, who was a printer, began a newspaper in 1830 called “The American.” It was an organ of the Democratic Party published in response to “The Union,” another Harrodsburg newspaper. Jesse Head Died on March 2, 1842 and was buried in Spring Hill Cemetery in Harrodsburg.

Present interpretation: The only known interpretation is a booklet, “The Man Who Married Lincoln’s Parents,” which records an address given by the Rev. William E. Barton at the dedication of a monument at the grave of Jesse Head and Jane Ramsey Head in 1922. The booklet is sold at the gift shop at Old Fort Harrod State Park. The tablet on the monument at the grave reads: Rev. Jesse Head / Jan. 26, 1768-March 22, 1842 / Preacher – Editor – Patriot / He Married June 12, 1806 Thomas Lincoln & / Nancy Hanks, Parents of Abraham Lincoln.

Potential as a visitor destination: As a destination, the gravesite has little potential, however, if visitors to the Marriage Temple were aware of the site, which is approximately one-half mile from Old Fort Harrod State Park, some would no doubt wish to visit it.

Accessibility: Spring Hill Cemetery is open daily. Visitors can park on the public street or, briefly, along the road in the cemetery.

Location: Spring Hill Cemetery is located on Greenville Street four blocks north of East Lexington Street (US 68). The Jesse Head’s grave is in Section E, opposite the large monument to Governor Beriah Magoffin.

Contact: No contact has been identified for this site.



UNION COUNTY

Abraham Lincoln gave just one political speech in Kentucky during his lifetime – at Morganfield, the county seat of Union County. In 1840 Lincoln, an elector from Illinois, was “on the stump” for the Whig candidate, William Henry Harrison, former governor of Indiana Territory. The campaign slogan, “Tippecanoe and Tyler Too,” referred to General Harrison’s successful assault on Chief Tecumseh’s capital on Tippecanoe Creek in 1811. Tyler, of course, was the vice-presidential candidate John Tyler.

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UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

When it was learned that Abraham Lincoln was to speak at Shawneetown, Illinois, about fifteen miles from Morganfield on the opposite side of the Ohio, a Whig delegation from Union County led by George Riddell was sent to convince Lincoln to speak at a rally being held in Morganfield. Lincoln agreed. He entered town at the head of a parade that featured young women, dressed to represent the states of the Union, riding on a float pulled by white horses. A cannon was brought along to fire a salute. When George Riddell, the master of ceremonies, fired the cannon, it exploded, injuring Riddell, although not seriously. After the rally, Lincoln and several Whigs from Illinois were entertained by Mr. Riddell at the Kentucky Hotel, which stood on the corner opposite the courthouse.



The Union County courthouse in Morganfield.

There is no record of the speech Lincoln gave that day. In all probability, it was much the same as others he gave during his stump, tailored to the interests of farmers in that area. The breech of the cannon that exploded is in the collection of the Kentucky Historical Society. The Union County Courthouse where Lincoln gave his speech still stands and is still in use. Built in 1811, it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Highway Marker 1329, which stands on the courthouse lawn, commemorates Lincoln’s speech.

Highway Marker 1329: Lincoln Spoke Here

Abraham Lincoln’s only political speech in his native state here, 1840, at age 31. An elector from Illinois, he campaigned for Whig presidential candidate William Henry Harrison. From Shawneetown, across river, Lincoln led parade. Young ladies rode on floats drawn by white horses. Cannon for salute burst upon firing. Its breech is at Kentucky Historical Society.

Present interpretation: Highway Marker 1329: Lincoln Spoke Here, is the site's only interpretation.

Potential as a visitor destination: Currently the site has little interpretation but there are plans to develop an exhibit to be placed in the Camp Breckinridge Museum. It is hoped that the Kentucky Historical Society will loan the Museum the breech of the cannon that exploded in firing the salute. There are also plans to stage a reenactment of the parade and the speech. A museum display would add to the site's visitor appeal, especially to those who live nearby. An exhibit might also be placed in the courthouse or an illustrated interpretive panel placed on the courthouse lawn. A reenactment of a mid-nineteenth century political rally, culminating in the parade and speech, has the potential to draw large numbers of people, especially in view of the site's easy access from the population centers of Owensboro, Kentucky and Evansville, Indiana.

Accessibility: The Union County Courthouse is open Monday through Friday. ♿

Location: 100 West Main Street, Morganfield, on the south side of West Main St (KY 56) between Morgan and South Court Street.

Contact: Vickie O'Nan, 270-389-1081, unjudge@bellsouth.net



WASHINGTON COUNTY

Washington County has a number of sites associated with the family of Abraham Lincoln. The most significant of these are the Lincoln Homestead, where Bathsheba Lincoln raised her five children to adulthood following the death of her husband Capt. Abraham Lincoln in 1786, the Mordecai Lincoln House, built in 1797 by Capt. Lincoln's oldest son and heir-in-law, and the Washington County Courthouse, which holds the marriage bond recorded by Thomas Lincoln stating his intent to marry Nancy Hanks and the record of marriage filed by the Rev. Jesse Head affirming that he performed the marriage ceremony uniting Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks in 1806.

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LINCOLN HOMESTEAD STATE PARK

After Capt. Abraham Lincoln's death, his widow, Bathsheba, moved herself and her five children, Mordecai, Josiah, Thomas, Mary and Nancy to the Beech Fork section of what was then Nelson County. They settled on or near the 120 acres that now comprise Lincoln Homestead State Park.

Adjacent to the parking area and gift shop is a cluster of log buildings - the Francis Berry House, The Thomas Lincoln Cabin, and the Blacksmith and Carpentry Shop. The Francis Berry House, which was originally located near the Beech Fork River, about two miles from its present location, is the actual home where Nancy Hanks lived prior to her marriage. Thomas Lincoln courted Nancy Hanks in this structure and is said to have proposed to her in the living room in front of the large fireplace. The Lincoln Cabin is a reproduction of the home in which Bathsheba Lincoln raised her five children to adulthood. It stands on the traditional site of the original cabin. The blacksmith and carpentry shop is a reproduction of the shop in which Thomas Lincoln learned carpentry. The Nancy Hanks Memorial is located adjacent to the Francis Berry House.



The Francis Berry House.

Present interpretation: Interpretation is provided in the form of a brochure given to visitors at the welcome center/gift shop. The brochure has sections entitled *The Lincoln Lineage*, which discusses the president's ancestors, *The First Massacre of Abraham Lincoln*, describing the death of the president's grandfather, *A Very Special Grandmother*, *The President's Mother*, and *The President's Father*, which provides a short biography of Thomas Lincoln, a description of the wedding ceremony, the Lincoln family in Kentucky, and Thomas Lincoln's marriage to Sarah Bush Johnston after the death of Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

Flip charts in each structure give a brief description of the building and identify the accessories and furnishings. Of particular significance are a bed and corner cupboard made by Thomas Lincoln which are displayed in the Lincoln Cabin and a bed in the Francis Berry House that was made by Francis Berry for



Nancy Hanks Memorial.

Nancy Hanks when she joined the family. Copies of the Lincoln marriage bond are also displayed.

A large panel in the center of the cluster of structures presents the Lincoln family tree on one side. The reverse traces the Lincoln family from England to the presidency.

The Nancy Hanks Memorial is a simple fieldstone-walled enclosure with a flagpole in the center. A concrete plaque atop a fieldstone base is, for the most part, illegible. The only legible text reads, "In Memory of Nancy Hanks." At the time of the site visit there was no flag displayed.

Potential as a visitor destination: Lincoln Homestead State Park is a highly visited destination. A reenactment of the wedding of Thomas Lincoln to Nancy Hanks is scheduled in 2006, which will probably increase the number of annual visitors. A larger-scale reenactment is scheduled for 2007 and it is possible that the wedding reenactment will become an annual event.



Thomas Lincoln Cabin.



Accessibility: The structures are open from 10 AM-5 PM from May 1 to September 30. Admission charged, ₤ (partially).

Location: Located off of US 150 five miles north of Springfield at the intersection of KY 428 and KY 258.

Contact: Bobby Bartholomai, Park Manager, 859-336-7461, bobby.bartholomai@ky.gov

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MORDECAI LINCOLN HOUSE

The Mordecai Lincoln House was built in 1797 by Mordecai Lincoln, the oldest son of Capt. Abraham Lincoln and the uncle of President Lincoln. The Mordecai Lincoln House is the only extant structure owned and occupied by a member of the Lincoln family in Kentucky that still stands on its original site and in a largely unaltered condition. The house is part of Lincoln Homestead State Park but is located approximately one mile from the group of structures that comprise the main visitor destination. The Mordecai Lincoln House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

After Capt. Abraham Lincoln's death, his widow, Bathsheba, moved her family to Washington County. In 1792 Mordecai Lincoln attained his majority and obtained administration of his late father's considerable estate. That same year he married Mary Mudd, cementing his ties to the first families of Nelson and Washington Counties. In January 1797, at the age of 26, he purchased 300 acres and constructed a log house twelve feet by twelve feet, to which he later added a second story. For reasons that are unknown, within five years he had sold the home and land and returned to the 130-acre homestead farm. The new owner of the Lincoln home covered the log structure with weatherboard and enlarged it to its present dimensions.

Mordecai Lincoln never gained title to the homestead farm though he paid taxes on the tract for eighteen years. In 1811 Mordecai Lincoln moved his family to Grayson County. He remained there until 1828 when he moved to Hancock County, Illinois, where he died in 1850.



The chimney on south end of the Mordecai Lincoln House is missing



The Mordecai Lincoln House looking south

Currently the Mordecai Lincoln house is in poor physical condition. The structure has evidence of water damage and rot and the exterior is in need of paint. The chimney on the south side of the structure is missing. There are plans in place to begin a complete renovation of the house beginning in 2006.

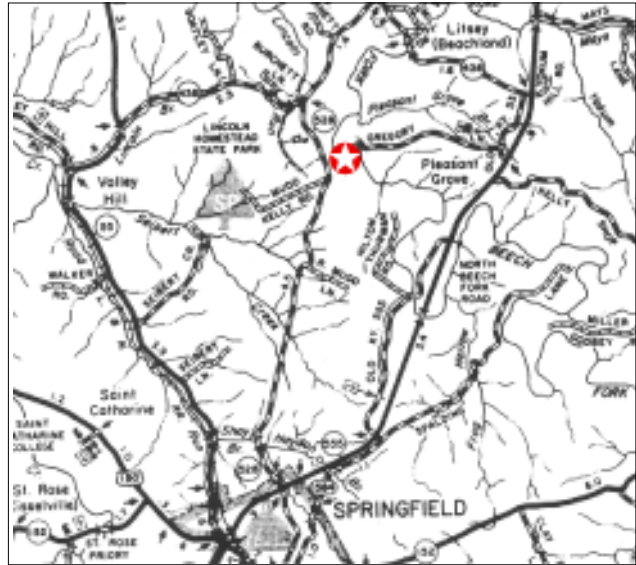
Present interpretation: The interpretive brochure gives a brief history of Mordecai Lincoln. The text in the brochure is repeated on a small sign affixed to front of structure.

Potential as a visitor destination: In its present condition the house has little potential. However, there is great potential with improved interpretation and public access to the interior.

Accessibility: Access is located to viewing the exterior of the structure. It is not open to the public, although it can be rented for events. A small vinyl-clad frame structure adjacent to the historic structure houses restrooms.

Location: On the east side of KY 258, nine-tenths of a mile south of the visitor entrance to Lincoln Homestead State Park and four miles north of Springfield.

Contact: Bobby Bartholomai, Park Manager,
859-336-7461, bobby.bartholomai@ky.gov



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WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Among the records on file at the Washington County Courthouse are the Marriage Bond of Thomas Lincoln and the Return of Marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. A marriage bond was given to the court by the intended groom prior to the marriage. It affirmed that there was no moral or legal reason why the couple could not be married. It also affirmed that the groom would not change his mind; if he did not go through with the marriage ceremony he forfeited the bond. The bondsman, or surety, was often a brother or uncle to the bride, not necessarily a parent. Less often, the bondsman was related to the groom or was a neighbor or a friend. The surety named on Thomas Lincoln's bond was Richard Berry, son of Francis Berry. For some years prior to the marriage, Nancy Hanks resided with the Berry family and Richard Berry acted as Nancy's guardian. The "Return of Marriage," affirmed that the intended marriage recorded in the marriage bond had indeed taken place. The return of marriage was filed by the Rev. Jesse Head, stating that he performed the marriage ceremony of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks on June 12, 1806.



Washington County Courthouse.

Present interpretation: The court room has a wall exhibit featuring photocopies of several documents relating to the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, including the marriage bond and return of marriage. There is also a copy of a petition to have a road in the Beech Fork section of the county designated a bridal path which is signed by Thomas Lincoln, his uncle, Josiah Lincoln, and Francis Berry and an 1801 county tax list showing Thomas Lincoln delinquent in taxes for one horse. The exhibit also documents the search for proof of the marriage of Lincoln's parents, which was initiated in 1860 when his opponents claimed he was illegitimate. The initial searches were mistakenly conducted in Hardin and LaRue counties.

The accusation of illegitimacy was not proved false until 1901 when the return of marriage was located in Washington County.

On the courthouse lawn is a monument marking the site of the Washington County Clerk's Office which reads: On this site in 1806 stood the Little Office of the Clerk of Washington County where Thomas Lincoln gave bond and secured a license to marry Nancy Hanks. The wedding took place at Beechland this county June 12.



Monument marking the location of the 1806 Washington County Clerks Office

Highway Marker 526: Lincoln Homestead is also located on the courthouse lawn.

The certified marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln to Nancy Hanks, parents of Abraham Lincoln, is on file here in Washington Co. Court House. Here also preserved is full account of the wedding. Lincoln Homestead State Park, seven miles north, now marks the site of log house where marriage was performed June 12 by the Rev. Jesse Head, Methodist Pastor.

Potential as a visitor destination: The historic courthouse, which was constructed in 1818 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is a visitor destination in its own right. The Lincoln exhibit in the courtroom will draw those interested in Lincoln's parents or family.

Accessibility: The court room is open to visitors Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM except when court is in session. The courtroom is kept locked when not in use; a key may be obtained at the information desk. ♿

Location: At the intersection of Main Street (US 150) and Lincoln Park Road (KY 555), Springfield.

Contact: Hall B. Goode, Director of Economic Development, 859-336-0052, Halsweda@bellsouth.net

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JESSE HEAD HOMESITE

Site of the home of Methodist pastor Jesse Head, who performed the marriage ceremony of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks on June 12, 1806.

Present interpretation: Highway Marker 1038: Jesse Head Homesite

On June 12, 1806 he performed the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, who, in 1809, became the parents of Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the U.S. Head, born in Maryland in 1768, “came a-preaching” to Kentucky in 1798. Cabinet maker, justice of the peace, on Sundays he preached fearlessly. Moved shop to Harrodsburg, 1810, kept on preaching, began newspaper.

Potential as a visitor destination: There are no physical remains of the Jesse Head home. As a single site/highway marker its potential is very limited but it could be combined with the Washington County Courthouse and the John Thompson House in a simple brochure-interpreted walking tour



Accessibility: Accessible by sidewalk, parking is available on adjacent streets.

Location: On the south side of High Street at Lincoln Park Road (KY 528), one block north of the Washington County Courthouse.

Contact: Hall B. Goode, Director of Economic Development, 859-336-0052, Halsweda@bellsouth.net

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JOHN THOMPSON HOUSE (HOUSE OF HISTORY)

The John Thompson House is the oldest house still standing in Springfield. The log structure was built in the early 1800s by John Thompson, whose wife is said to have been Nancy Hanks' first cousin. In 1860 it was the home of John P. Calhoun, who later said he cast the only vote for Abraham Lincoln in Washington County in the 1860 presidential election. *Highway Marker 1446: House of History* is located in front of the two-story structure, which has had several additions and is now covered in weatherboard.

Present interpretation: Highway Marker 1446: House of History

“Built on part of Matthew Walton’s land used to establish Springfield. Deeded, 1817, to John Thompson by town trustees. Bought same year by John Bainbridge, who operated a tavern there. Sold in 1830 to

D. H. Spears, noted silversmith. Later owned by James Calhoun, who boasted he cast only vote for Lincoln tallied in county, 1860. Named Ky. Landmark House in 1969.”

Potential as a visitor destination: The John Thompson House is a private residence As a single site its potential is very limited, but it could be combined with the Washington County Courthouse and Jesse Head Homesite, which are within two blocks of each other, in a simple brochure-interpreted walking tour.

Location: On the north side of High Street at Walnut Street, two blocks from the Washington County Courthouse; street address unknown.

Contact: Hall B. Goode, Director of Economic Development, 859-336-0052, Halsweda@bellsouth.net



John Thompson House, “The House of History.”



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HIGHWAY MARKER 853 AND 854: WASHINGTON COUNTY

According to *Roadside History: A Guide to Kentucky Highway Markers*, Highway Markers on KY 55 and US 150 inform visitors of the Lincoln family's connections to the county. However, neither of these markers could be located.

Highway Marker 853 and 854: Washington County (the text of both is identical)

"The first county formed by the first Assembly of Kentucky, 1792. Named for George Washington. Springfield, county seat, laid off 1793, by Matthew Walton; veteran of War of Revolution, legislator. Courthouse built in 1816, oldest used as such in state (1965). First settlers in area, 1776. Pres. Lincoln's grandfather came this part Ky., 1782; parents married in county, 1806. Over."

Reverse:

"Col. John Hardin, Revolutionary soldier, laid claim in area 1780. Settled 1786. On peace mission in Ohio, 1792, murdered by Indians. First Dominican Priory in U.S., 1806, where Jefferson Davis went to school, 1815-16. John Pope, U.S. Senator, 1807-13, came to Springfield, 1820. Governor, Arkansas Terr., 1829-35; Congress, 1837-43. Home and grave in city. Over."

Potential as a visitor destination: None, although they could serve to make visitors aware that there are Lincoln-related sites in the county; neither of the markers was located, however.

Accessibility: Unknown

Location: According to *Roadside History: A Guide to Kentucky Highway Markers*, HM 853 is on US 150 at the Nelson County line and HM 854 is on KY 55 at the Marion County line. Neither of these markers could be located.

WOLFE COUNTY

A number of members of the large and multi-branched Hanks clan left their homes in Virginia in the late 17th and early 18th centuries and crossed through the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky. A number settled, at least initially, in eastern Kentucky, among them Fielden Hanks, who lived in Wolfe County from 1818 until his death in 1861.

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GRAVE OF FIELDEN HANKS

Fielden Hanks was the fifth child of Abraham and Sarah (Harper) Hanks of Virginia, who were married about 1868. The couple had nine children, Abraham, Jr. (1770), Luke (1771), William (1775), George (1782), Fielden (1783), Nancy (1784), John (1786), Sarah (1788), and Mary (1790), called Polly by the family. All of Abraham and Sarah Hanks' children eventually left Virginia and settled in Kentucky. Both Abraham and Sarah died in the early 1790s and were buried in the Hanks plot of the Hatt Creek Cemetery in Campbell County, Virginia. After their parents' death it is likely that the younger children, including Fielden, were taken into the homes of relatives.

About 1804, Fielden Hanks came to Kentucky and married Lydia Harper, a full-blood Choctaw Indian whose parents, John and Mary Ann Harper, had come to Kentucky from Mississippi. Fielden's brother George married Lydia's sister, Sibby. According to family tradition, Fielden was a skilled woodsman and both he and his cousin, James Hanks, were known to many of their contemporaries as "mighty hunters."



Grave of Fielden Hanks.

Fielden and Lydia Hanks moved to Campton, then Camp Town, from Montgomery County in 1818. He built the first permanent dwelling in what had been a miners' camp for men seeking the legendary Swift Silver Mine in the nearby Red River Gorge. In 1824, Fielden was elected one of the first magistrates of newly formed Morgan County. Fielden Hanks died on August 13, 1861. His wife Lydia died one month later, on October 12, 1861. Both are buried in the Old City Cemetery, formerly known as the Old Methodist Burying Ground.

A number of researchers believe that the Nancy Hanks who was Fielden Hanks' younger sister was the mother of President Abraham Lincoln.

Present interpretation: An engraved stone marker at the grave site; Fielden Hanks' grave is also mentioned

on a wayside being installed in Campton as part of a Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association initiative.

Potential as a visitor destination: The cemetery is well maintained and attractively fenced. It would be a destination for those who wish to visit any site connected to the Lincoln family.

Accessibility: The cemetery is open daily. Located on a hill, the cemetery is accessed by a long flight of steps.

Location: Old City Cemetery, 100 yards east of the Wolfe County Courthouse on Campbell Hill Road.

Contact: No contact has been identified for this site.



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